Dudley
CHRONICLE

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SHOCK AT PREGNANT SMOKERS

Councillor Rachel Harris

Report by Andrew Turton

NEARLY one is six of all mothers-to-be in Dudley are smoking throughout their pregnancy, shocking new figures reveal.

A total of 15.7 per cent — down from 16.1 — in the borough continue lighting up during the nine months that they are expecting a baby. That's more than the national average of just 11.4 per cent.

Across the Black Country, Cannock and Stafford, 2,773 women were recorded as smoking at the time of giving birth in 2014/15, leading to fears that unborn babies are being caused serious harm.

Dudley's Councillor Rachel Harris, who oversees health in the borough, said: "We are very disappointed that too many pregnant women are smoking. We know it can harm the baby in the womb from day one and causes higher rates of stillbirth, premature birth, low birth weight and sudden infant death.

"However, stopping smoking early in pregnancy can almost completely prevent damage to the baby and stopping at any time during pregnancy reduces the risk of the baby's health being harmed. We are working with our partners in the NHS to help pregnant women get the advice and support they need to quit smoking."

She urged all pregnant women who smoke, along with their family and friends who also smoke, to get help and support from the Dudley Stop Smoking Service or their GP.

According to the latest figure from the Health and Social Care Information Centre, 18.8 per cent in Wolverhampton are smoking, up from 18.7 per cent in the previous 12 months. In Walsall it's up from 13.7 to 14.7.

Deprived

The figure is 10 per cent in Sandwell and West Birmingham — an increase of 0.4 per cent.

Professor Kevin Fenton, director of health and well-being at Public Health England, said: "There are still significant differences across regions and social groups with the burden and harm hitting hardest in more deprived communities.

"Stopping smoking is the best thing a woman and her partner can do to protect their own health and the health of their baby, both during pregnancy and after.

"Quitting and remaining smoke free can be difficult and, like many smokers, expectant parents may need help."

He added: "Women who smoke need to know that they are increasing the chances of abnormal fetal growth and risking their baby being stillborn."

Father dies after being struck by car

A FATHER who was hit by a car in Dudley as he strapped his child into the back seat of the family Peugeot has died.

The man, believed to be in his 40s and from Halesowen, was seriously injured after being struck by a Volkswagen Polo in Oakham Road at around 3pm on Saturday near the junction with Tansley Hill Avenue.

He was flown by Air Ambulance to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he subsequently died of his injuries.

Residents rushed to the family's aid and carried out CPR on the father, who wasn't breathing, until paramedics arrived.

His wife and two young children had to be cut free from the green Peugeot 206 by firefighters and were treated for minor injuries.

Flowers were placed at the crash scene as residents spoke of their shock over the tragedy.

Kyra Thomas, aged 42, who was among those who tried to help the family, said: "It's heartbreaking.

"I can't get it out of my head, it's not something you expect to happen. It's horrendous —just getting in the car."

11-year-old boy escapes gang of men

FOUR men attempted to abduct an 11-year-old boy in a Netherton street.

Police say the youngster was approached in St George's Road by the men at around 5pm on Thursday, June 18. They asked the boy to get into their light coloured BMW, but he kicked one of the group and ran away. Police are investigating the incident and said specialist officers are speaking with the boy and his parents.

Meanwhile, parents have been warned to be on their guard following reports of a man trying to lure a schoolgirl into his car in Tipton.

Police are carrying out extra patrols after the infant pupil was approached by a man in a black Mercedes last Wednesday.

The girl was ahead of her mother in Bramah Way when the car pulled alongside her and a man started speaking to her. The child went back towards her mother but the man kept calling to her and started to open the car door. Both mother and child ran off.

The man was described as Asian, aged 40 to 50, with a grey and black beard.

Warm up with the Dancing Grannies

Fizzog's Dancing Grannies, as played by Deb Nicholls, Jacky Fellows and Sue Hawkins, are pictured with road race organiser Alan Bowler

Internet stars at race

INTERNET sensations the Dancing Grannies, as played by comedy troupe The Fizzogs, will host the warm-up session for this year's Black Country Run.

Organised by the Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club with Halesowen Athletics Association, the run will take place on July 5 as part of the Black Country Festival.

The Fizzogs, who became famous when their Dancing Grannies at Stourbridge Carnival went viral on the internet, will be helping runners to limber up for the 10k route, which sets off from Somers Square, Halesowen.

Runners taking part when it starts at 9am will be invited to join the Fizzogs-led warm-up and dance their way into the run, which Mayor Councillor Steve Waltho, will be starting, before he himself joins the mayoress in the 5k run at 11am.

Steve Edwards, chairman of the Black Country Festival, said: "The Fizzogs really demonstrate their brilliant sense of humour in a way that is enjoyable and entertaining for people of all ages. By asking them to come in and warm up the runners will hopefully get people laughing their way at the start and the finish line."

Following the race in Halesowen, the mayor and mayoress will head for Stourbridge Carnival in the afternoon where the Black Country Festival continues.

ATTACK

Teenager is found with stab wounds

A TEENAGER was taken to hospital after being found with stab wounds to his stomach in a Sedgley street.

Police were called to Beacon Lane at around 9pm on Friday night and the 17-year-old was then taken to hospital for treatment.

The teenager's condition was said to be stable. Officers sealed off an area of Beacon Lane while forensic examinations took place. Anyone who witnessed the attack is urged to contact police on 101, or to call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

VANDALISM

Rubbish is dumped after gate wrecked

VANDALS have caused hundreds of pounds of damage to a park gate in Gornal, allowing fly-tippers onto the recreation site.

The barrier is used to stop vehicles illegally accessing the land, known locally as The Rec, off Summer Lane, but it has been bent out of shape and wedged into fencing.

Councillor Dave Branwood said "Since the barrier was vandalised residents of Summer Lane have had to put up with burnt out cars and fly-tipping."

PLANNING

Decision to be made over King Arthur pub

THE end is in sight for the landmark King Arthur pub with councillors being recommended to approve plans to flatten it to make way for a new Aldi supermarket.

The German budget chain has lodged proposals to demolish the 1920s roadhouse, beside the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, to make way for the store.

Supermarket bosses say the new 1,000 sq ft store will create 40 jobs and have a 94-space car park.

But the scheme has divided opinion across the borough, with letters in favour and a petition again the plan, which goes before councillors on Monday.

INSIDE

CAN'T SAY NO TO OKLAHOMA

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Drug addict is jailed for mean theft

Despicable — Richard Mills

A DRUG addict who was given a day's work helping to lay carpets at the home of a 69-year-old woman stole her jewellery, worth £4,000.

The victim had given serial offender Richard Mills breakfast and cups of tea while he worked at the house. He repaid her kindness by stealing an engagement ring and eternity ring, both 'priceless' to her because of sentimental value.

Mills also took a watch and two silver chains which he sold to buy drugs, revealed Miss Sharonjit Bahia, prosecuting, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The defendant was an odd job man brought in to help at the Coseley home of the victim on February 6. Miss Bahia explained: "The woman fed him breakfast and provided numerous cups of tea and biscuits. The defendant was then asked to clear up some rooms upstairs."

An hour after the carpet fitters left the occupant went upstairs and saw a gold ring on the bathroom floor. Fears were confirmed when she realised jewellery was missing from her bedroom.

Mills, who had 31 previous convictions, had walked out wearing her husband's hat and carrying a pork pie taken from the fridge. This had happened just two days after he appeared before magistrates on an another matter. He was arrested for the jewellery theft on March 5 after being detained at a supermarket for shoplifting bottles of gin.

The victim did not ask for compensation because she assumed he would just steal to raise the money. Mr Jon Roe, defending, said Mills 'bitterly regrets giving in to temptation.'

Mills, of Florence Avenue, Lanesfield, pleaded guilty to theft and was jailed for two years and three months by Judge Martin Walsh, who told him: "This was a mean and despicable offence."

Cowboy builders conned disabled widow aged 86

THREE young cowboy builders charged a disabled 86-year-old widow £500 for roof repairs that were not needed, a judge heard.

She was deliberately targeted by the unqualified men who made a cold call at her Dudley home on January 16, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The vulnerable victim, who uses a walking frame and lives alone, was told that they were working in the area and had noticed the ridge tiles on her house were loose. It later emerged that a neighbour had seen one of the men climbing up a ladder to pull the tiles free, said Mr Mark Jackson, prosecuting.

Charlie Lee, aged 20, 19-year-old Nathan Smith and their 17-year-old accomplice quoted £500, which was quickly reduced by £50 when the initial offer was turned down. The victim grudgingly agreed to the work because she felt intimidated by the men and wanted to get rid of them.

They refused a cheque and, as she only had £190 in cash, had to go to the post office to withdraw the balance. She was driven by a friend but her hands shook so much she could not enter the pin number. When she returned home to tell the trio they took the £190, wrote a receipt and said they would come back for the rest of the money the following day.

Pressurised

Mr Jackson said: "The work did not need doing. She felt pressurised and anxious and only agreed to get rid of them. They did not make overt threats. Their presence was sufficient."

Trading Standard officers were waiting with police when Lee from Justin Park, Market Harborough, Smith of Coventry and the teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, returned.

All three pleaded guilty to aggressive working practice. Lee was given four months' detention in a Young Offenders Institution, the teenager received the same period on a detention and trading order and Smith, the only one without previous convictions, was handed a four-month detention order suspended for 18 months with 70 hours of unpaid work, £750 costs and £63 compensation.

The van they were using was ordered to be seized.

Couple celebrate 60 years together

Diamond wedding anniversary couple Raymond and Margery Edwards look at a photograph of their wedding day

A DIAMOND wedding couple are raising a glass to 60 years of happy marriage after they first met at a famous Black Country pub.

Ray and Margery Edwards, aged 81 and 83, have marked the marriage milestone this month with their family.

Mrs Edwards' parents Samuel and Ellen Green were licensees at The Crooked House pub, near Himley, for more than 20 years. Their daughter used to work occasional shifts behind the bar.

"I used to get a free pint so that was nice," said Mr Edwards. "We started writing to each other and love blossomed from there."

Mr Edwards was enlisted for national service in 1952 serving in the 59th Regiment, the Royal Artillery, in Carlisle, working on radar.

The couple kept in touch as pen pals before Mr Edwards was demobbed in April 1954. They courted for just over a year before tying the knot at St Michael's Church, in Himley, on June 11, 1955. After holding the wedding reception at The Crooked House they had a short honeymoon in Pontypridd, South Wales.

The couple lived in Amblecote and Wordsley before Kingswinford for the past 47 years.

Mr Edwards worked in maintenance at Wordsley Hospital for 32 years and his wife worked at Hickmans ammunition factory, Kingswinford. The couple have three children, two grandchildren and one great grandson.

Sign up call for council's automatic alert service

COUNCIL tenants in Dudley can sign up to a service that sends them alerts about meetings and services.

Once registered for the free service, Dudley Council will automatically send information about upcoming tenant and resident association meetings, events and housing services.

Residents can sign-up e at www.dudley.gov.uk/housingalerts or by calling (01384) 815168.

Housing chief Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "As a community council we pride ourselves on engaging with local residents and we want to ensure all of the tenants and residents living on our estates become actively involved in the running of our borough.

"Dudley Council has many tenants and residents associations operating in the area and they make an invaluable contribution as they ensure everyone has a say in the development of their estate, as well as providing an opportunity to meet other people.

"These communications methods provide customers with another way to keep in touch, particularly as many people now have mobile phones and email. We want to embrace these convenient communication channels to involve residents wherever possible."

There are currently 27 tenant and resident associations in the borough whose members are actively helping to run their estates. The groups discuss many issues relating to their areas and develop ideas of how they can help to make improvements.

Shoppers back children's fun

CUSTOMERS at a Dudley supermarket have voted for a play centre to receive a cash donation.

Staff from Asda in High Street, Dudley, gave a cheque of £200 to Sycamore Adventure's play service manager, Keith Rogers, as part of the supermarket's Chosen by you Given by us token scheme. Every month Asda stores choose three charities for the green token vote when shoppers use tokens given at the till to put in a box for their favourite of the three.

The winning charity receives a cheque for £200. The two runners up also receive £50 each.

Sycamore Adventure attracts thousands of children every year to its play centre on Old Park Farm Estate. It includes a hobbit house and play barn.

Breweries will have stall at town fair

A PAIR of Halesowen breweries are teaming up to produce a new ale and to run a stall at a summer event in the town. Angel Ales and Fixed Wheel Brewery will be selling their bottled beers at a Black Country Fair being held in the town centre on July 25.

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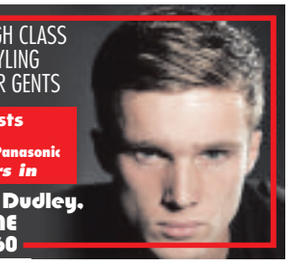

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More homes created by council due to demand

DOZENS of empty council houses across Dudley will be revamped and brought back into use during the next 12 months.

Dudley Council says it wants to refurbish 90 properties to help meet the demand for homes from families in the borough.

It comes as bosses prepare to start work on a £1.3 million project to covert the former Arcal Lodge care home in Sedgley into new council homes.

Work will start next month to convert the building into six apartments, along with eight bungalows.

The project is expected to be completed in March 2016.

Construction has also started to build homes on the sites of former council depots at The Walk in Sedgley and at Norfolk Road in Wollaston.

It is the next stage of a wider £40m scheme to build 300 properties over the next five years.

As well as building new homes, housing boss Councillor Gaye Partridge said the authority was committed restored properties which were lying empty after falling into a state of disrepair for various reasons.

"We have again set a target of bringing 90 empty homes back into use over the next year," she said.

"Last year we exceeded this and will hope to achieve a similar figure this year as we look to make the most of the borough's housing stock and minimise situations where properties are empty and can become an eyesore and a problem for local communities."

Housing stock is at a 25-year low

THE boss of a Black Country chain of estate agents says that stock levels of homes on the market are the lowest he has known in a quarter of a century in the industry.

Paul Dubberley & Co managing partner Lee Morton said the firm had had a lot of recent sales success and the market in the wake of the General Election was 'a lot more upbeat'.

"There were so many people chasing these particular houses it was incredible. If you get the right stock in then it will go."

Mr Morton said that it was the supply of homes that was now the problem. "In 25 years in the industry I have never known a market with stock levels as low as they are at the moment," he added.

No waiting plan outside school

DUDLEY Council is planning to bring in a no waiting zone in New Street, Wall Heath, outside the entrance to Church of Ascension Primary School after parents raised concerns.

Call to halt cuts on funding for college

Ian Austin MP spoke up for college

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has called on the Government to reverse cutbacks that are putting jobs and training at risk at Dudley College.

The college is facing a cut of £1.4 million which has put 30 jobs and 1,500 student places under threat. The cuts come from the Government's Skills Funding Agency.

Mr Ian Austin raised the college's plight during a debate on education in the House of Commons.

In the debate Mr Austin said: "In areas such as mine, where long-term youth unemployment is three times the national average, not enough young people are going to university, doing apprenticeships or continuing to study at all. We need a Royal Commission so that we can agree as a country that education and skills are the number one priority and set cross-party, long-term goals enabling every child to fulfil their potential."

The college has been building a multi-million pound 'learning quarter' in the town centre, including a sixth form campus, manufacturing centre and a vocational centre.

After the debate, Mr Austin added: "Dudley College are doing a brilliant job helping local businesses grow and educating young people and helping adults get new jobs too. They are doing exactly what ministers have asked colleges to do."

Among the training places under threat as a result of the funding cuts are health and social care courses, as well as early years training delivered in the workplace.

A consultation has been taking place with staff at the college. Bosses have been looking at whether workers can be redeployed to other roles.

Hospital parking charge increases are under fire

PARKING charges have risen at Russells Hall Hospital, increasing by as much as 50 per cent.

Hospital bosses have come under fire over the price hike.

Chiefs have defended the move, saying running and maintenance costs mean a rise was needed after a two-year freeze on tariffs.

People parking for up to 30 minutes have to pay £1.50 rather than £1. An hour-long stay costs £2.60, up from £2. An hour-and-a-half's parking has risen by 60p to £3.60. A stay of up to three hours has increased at the same rate, rising from £4 to £4.60, while a long stay up to 24 hours has risen by 10p to £5.60.

Dudley councillor Bill Etheridge, who has campaigned on the issue, called the move 'utterly disgusting'.

"It's shameful. There is absolutely no excuse," he said. "The public are visiting relatives at a time of great stress and upset and let's not forget this is one of the poorest areas not just in the West Midlands but the whole country. On every level this is practically, ethically and morally wrong."

Councillor Etheridge feared the move could lead to congestion on surrounding roads as visitors seek to avoid paying the charges.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin said he is writing to the Health Secretary about the fee hike. He said: "Like any other local family we queue up at Russells Hall when we're ill, so I know how parking charges can rack up quickly. That's why I have always campaigned against these charges.

Vulnerable

"Lots of people in Dudley have got in touch with me to say how frustrating it is to have to spend so much on parking when going to the hospital for an appointment or to visit loved ones. These fees often hit vulnerable people at a time when they may already be facing a fall in their income. I want them cut."

Paula Clark, chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Patient and visitor car park charges had remained unchanged for two years. Pressures such as running costs and keeping the car parks safe and secure has forced us to increase the charges.

"We do not take decisions to increase charges to patients lightly and we have checked the market rate to see how we compare to local trusts, some of which charge for the first 15 minutes and most charge more for all day parking."

At last tea is back for dance club

Time for tea with Patricia and Terry Howell, dance instructor Fiona Bennett, Irene Barker and Geoff Taylor

THEY have been a tea dance club without tea but now Dudley dancers are toasting the return of a cuppa with their weekly sessions of gliding around the dancefloor.

The dancers at Dudley Town Hall had to have sessions without hot drinks after staff, provided by the town hall, were no longer able to serve them. Now, however, with permission to use the town hall's hot water flasks, the dancers can enjoy warm beverages again to restore themselves after some fancy footwork.

Fiona Bennett, teacher at the club, said: "There's tea and coffee which people can serve themselves available all afternoon. We have been called the afternoon dance club but now we can call ourselves a tea dance club again."

The club recently returned to Dudley Town Hall after four months of emergency repairs over the winter causing disruption, which hit the number of club members.

"We have lost some of our members due to the disruption, we have about 20" said Mrs Bennett. "We're desperately trying to get more to come along"

The Tea Dance Club at Dudley Town Hall hold sessions every Wednesday with free sequence tuition from 1pm and dancing until 3.45pm for £3 per person. Call Mrs Bennett on (01384) 243451.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Invite to share food at mosque

DUDLEY Central Mosque at Castle Hill is extending an open invitation for residents of all backgrounds to join Muslims as they break their daily fast during Ramadan. It takes place at around 9.30pm nightly.

Mosque leaders are keen to share their facilities and spokesman Amjid Raza said: "We are pleased to be able to extend an open invitation to anyone wanting to join us when we break our fast. I hope that local people will take up the offer and we look forward to giving them a warm reception, good company and some delicious food."

Hopes for Led Zep reunion dashed

HOPES of a Led Zeppelin reunion have been dashed after guitarist Jimmy Page said he had moved on from the idea, after trying to persuade singer Robert Plant and bass player John Paul Jones to reform the group.

Black Country rock star Plant has refused to get involved since the comeback concert at London's O2 Arena in 2007. Now Page insists he no longer yearns to perform with them, which he said during a press conference at Olympic Studios in London to mark the deluxe reissuing of the band's final three LPs.

Bowled over by free lesson offer

PEOPLE can try their hand at crown green bowls this summer with beginners lessons running at a Black Country park.

The free sessions at Huntingtree Park in Halesowen run every Tuesday from 12noon until 2pm. Equipment is provided and free tuition is on hand for those new to the sport or eager to develop their skills.

The session leaders are experienced bowlers. Call (01384) 813747 for more information.

Popular fun day being organised for Gornal

PREPARATIONS are well under way for a popular annual fun day in Dudley.

Gornal Fun Day takes place on Saturday, July 11, from 12pm to 4pm at the Recreation Ground, off Vale Street, in Upper Gornal, and entrance is free.

Attractions include Punch and Judy, fairground rides, a vintage car and bike display, bouncy castle and slide, face painting and a performance from the High Arcal School Band.

Apartments planned

FOURTEEN apartments could be built on vacant land in Quarry Bank under new plans.

The scheme has been earmarked for a site on the corner of Thorns Road and Caledonia. Officers at Dudley Council recommended the proposals are approved at a meeting on Monday.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

ERIC Gill (1882-1940) was a fabulously gifted artist. He was also a raging pervert and paedophile who had sex with his sister, daughters and his own dog. In her fine series How to Be Bohemian (BBC4), Victoria Coren Mitchell could barely conceal her disgust. And yet Gill's sculpture of Prospero with a naked Ariel still stands boldly on the front of the BBC's Broadcasting House. It is a dilemma. Do you bin an artist's entire life work if he is exposed as a sexual rampager? And how can Auntie Beeb keep Eric Gill's sculpture but ban Rolf Harris's Two Little Boys?

MEANWHILE, Rolf Harris is condemned for a song he has written in jail denouncing his victims and trying to excuse his sins. This is brandished as proof that he shows no remorse. Well, maybe he doesn't. But there is another possibility. At 85, Rolf Harris may simply be losing his marbles.

A LITTLE girl in our local park brushed against a nettle and howled with pain. Her mother said it was only a tiny sting. The toddler still howled. All around, between the nettles, were hundreds of dock leaves. Do parents no longer teach their kids that the cure for a nettle sting is to spit on a dock leaf and slap it on the wound?

A SURVEY suggests teenagers are not taking Saturday jobs because they are "solely focused on their studies." Nothing to do with being idle little devils and lying in bed till 3pm, then?

SIR Ian McKellen hits the big screen with the release of the Sherlock movie Mr Holmes. I wish him well. I've interviewed him twice and each time was a delight. He was sparky, spontaneous, informative, totally un-luvvie and delightfully indiscreet. If only all celebs were such a pleasure.

THE right thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita in Humans (C4) is: "This looks like a fascinating study of human and robotic relationships in the near future." The wrong thing to say on first beholding the beautiful, charming, ever-compliant robot Anita is: "I want one."

YET, given that online porn has already destroyed thousands of relationships, who can guess what havoc humanoid robots might wreak in the not-too-distant future? Imagine, ladies, the joys of a slim-hipped permanent 25-year-old house-warrior who worships you, never picks his nose, does the washing and lawn-mowing joyfully and is genuinely fascinated by what Molly in HR said to Fran in Accounts that morning. Imagine, gentlemen. . . . On second thoughts, there is no need to entice men to imagine what sort of robots they'd like. They need no encouragement.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hi-de-Hi! star wishes play good luck

A STAR of classic holiday camp sit-com Hi-de-Hi! has wished an amateur group luck as they adapt the popular show for the stage.

Oldbury Rep continues its 76th season by staging their version of the 1980s TV show by Jimmy Perry and David Croft, adapted by Paul Carpenter and Ian Gower.

In the play, it is the start of a new season at the holiday camp and founder Joe Maplin announces that he is setting up a camp in the Bahamas. He needs female Yellowcoats to work there and the annual 'Miss Yellowcoat' competition will decide who is to go.

Rivalry between the girls is fierce, with Sylvia and Gladys front runners to win the coveted yellow sash and chalet cleaner Peggy is thrilled at the prospect of a Yellowcoat vacancy. Meanwhile, comedian Ted is forced into numerous money-making schemes when his ex-wife turns up.

Walsall-born actor Jeffrey Holland, who played Spike in the original series, sent a good luck message to Oldbury Rep, saying: "The very best of Maplin's luck for the run of your show. I hope you have as much fun doing it as we did doing the original one. It's good to know that it is as popular today as it was 30 years ago!"

The production runs from July 4 to 11 with tickets priced at £10 (concessions £9) with cut-price £8 performances on the Monday and Tuesday. Book online at www.oldburyrep.org or call 0121 552 2761.

Jeffrey Holland

Sea of gold and black as Joe is laid to rest

HUNDREDS of Wolves fans turned out wearing gold and black to say a tearful goodbye to avid young supporter Joseph Thompson.

Family members, friends and people who did not even know him attended the 13-year-old's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium, joined by Wolves boss Kenny Jackett and chief executive Jez Moxey.

Joseph, who was voted Fan of the Year in 2014, warmed the hearts of players, coaches and officials at Molineux as he followed his beloved club the length and breadth of the country in all weathers with dad Jason.

When he was three years old he was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Distrophy, a muscle-wasting condition that left him wheelchair-bound. He died last month after suffering a heart attack.

The youngster, whose condition limited his movement and meant he couldn't use his legs, became a recognisable face to the Wolves players and coaching staff. He would often be there waiting as the team coach arrived at away games.

Jackett, who was joined at the service by his wife Samantha, said: "He was a regular visitor to the training ground with his family.

Tribute

"He was at every away game and would often be there before the bus. He was a smashing young man."

Moxey also paid tribute, saying: "Joe was a really dedicated supporter who loved the club so much. It is a moving tribute to see so many fans decked out in Wolves colours."

Joseph, who lived in Pensnett, got the Wolves bug after he became hooked on football during the 2010 World Cup.

He didn't miss a single game in four years before being taken ill in March following a minibus crash that left him in intensive care at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Even then he only missed six games and was welcomed back to Molineux by the club as the family were given the VIP treatment with their own executive box and they saw a 3-0 win over Sheffield Wednesday.

Sadly it would be one of the last times he would visit his spiritual home. Famous songs associated with the club filled the air at last Wednesday's service, including The Liquidator and Hi Ho Silver Lining. It began at 2.50pm, the time that Joseph and his father would normally arrive at Molineux on Saturdays.

Doves were released into the sky following the service. Parents Jason and Jackie, of Rookery Park, said they were blown away by the masses of gold and black shirted supporters that came to pay their respects. Jason, an upholstery supervisor in Telford, said: "He mentioned one day that at his funeral he wanted Wolves colours and he wanted everybody to be happy.

"He was a happy chappy who lived his life to the full but obviously the number one thing in his life was Wolves. Home and away, that was his life."

Jackie, a supervisor at Russells Hall Hospital, also 42, said: "He was remarkable - funny, energetic and Wolves was his life. It has been absolutely overwhelming. Wolverhampton Wanderers have been fantastic."

Joseph, who went to school in Bromsgrove, was handed a standing ovation from more than 600 people at the club's end of season awards dinner when he was voted fan of the Year.

His father had taken him to his first Wolves game, a pre-season friendly against Athletic Bilbao, and then to every game that followed.

Wolves fan Joe Thompson

Joe's family, including sister and parents, at the funeral service

Steve Thomas, advertising manager, Jez Moxey and Kenny Jackett represened Wolves

Tea party and awards for charity volunteers

A CHARITY based in Sedgley has praised more than 230 loyal volunteers for their support for people living with sight loss across the West Midlands.

Beacon's annual Volunteer of the Year Awards at its Wolverhampton Road East headquarters saw the contribution of helpers recognised with a special tea party in their honour.

Prizes were presented to two groups, with the Bloxwich shop team picking up the Beacon Retail Award, while the Long Knowle Club Volunteers received the Beacon Volunteer of the Year Award.

Arwyn Jones, chief executive of Beacon, said: "The annual awards ceremony allows Beacon to demonstrate gratitude and appreciation to every single one of our dedicated and loyal volunteers. The thank you tea party is a lovely occasion, bringing together hundreds of the charity's supporters.

"We currently have 235 people who generously and tirelessly aid the charity through community fundraising, and helping out in our shops or the Sedgley centre. Without them, Beacon would struggle to deliver its vital services to people."

The Retail Volunteer of the Year award went to Bloxwich shop volunteers Paul Willey, Brenda Birkett and Sue Boxold; while Long Knowle Club Volunteers Maureen Taylor, Beryl Meyrick, Gillian Gogle, Jane Bood, Brenda Osborne, Mavis Davis and Ninder Kaur from Wednesfield picked up the Beacon Volunteer of the Year award.

Speedway rider Proctor deported

FORMER Wolverhampton speedway rider Ty Proctor has been deported.

The Australian, who moved from Wolves to Sheffield Tigers, had his application to review his visa refused due to not meeting renewal criteria based on his performance in the sport.

A Wolverhampton Wolves Speedway statement read: "Since he first arrived in the UK he has held the necessary visa as a professional speedway rider, immediately registering with HM Revenue and Customs and his behaviour has been exemplary.

"During the subsequent years as he joined Wolverhampton his visa has been renewed without question and each time he easily met the necessary renewal criteria and he has spent enough time in the UK to qualify for a residence permit."

Celebrity chef Gino stars live on stage

CELEBRITY chef Gino D'Acampo brings his new stage show to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 3.

Tickets for Gino's Italian Escape Live are priced £26.95. Call 0870 320 7000 or book online at www.wolves-civic.co.uk

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Rise in the number of dangerous dogs seized

THE number of dangerous dogs seized by police is on the increase as hundreds of attacks are reported every year, new figures show.

West Midlands Police seized more than 400 dogs in 2013/2014, while more than 1,000 attacks were reported in the region between 2012 and 2014.

More than 200 dogs were seized by West Mercia Police in three years, resulting in more than 100 being destroyed.

Meanwhile, in Staffordshire, 18 dangerous dogs were destroyed between 2013 and 2015 after dozens were seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

Figures uncovered by a Freedom of Information request found 428 dogs were seized in the West Midlands force area in 2013/14 and 190 were destroyed.

Previous

The numbers were up on the previous year, when 353 were seized and 184 were destroyed, and in 2011/12 when 287 dogs were seized with 122 destroyed.

It came after 332 dog attacks were reported in 2014, 329 in 2013 and 367 in 2012.

In West Mercia's force area, 38 dogs were seized in 2012, 35 in 2013 and 145 in 2014 – although the force claimed a change in recording from 2014 led to an increase in the numbers. Figures show that of these, 70 were destroyed in 2014 and 18 were destroyed in both 2012 and 2013.

Foreign money created 457 jobs

FOREIGN investment helped create more than 450 jobs in the Black Country in 2014/15, latest UK Trade and Investment figures show.

The 457 roles was a 310 per cent improvement on the previous year, when 146 were created in the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) area. The figures also show more foreign businesses invested in Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP than any other LEP region.

Investors include Jaguar Land Rover, KPMG, Virgin Media and Amazon.

Wayne Langford, head of Invest Black Country, said: "We have also seen a considerable increase in awareness of the Black Country among overseas businesses and agencies."

Pupils in appeal for raffle prizes

PUPILS are appealing for items to raffle to raise funds at Peters Hill Primary School, Amblecote. Businesses that can help are invited to contact teaching assistant Teresa McDonald on (01384) 816740.

Shopping ban on mother and son thieves

A MOTHER and son crime team from Dudley have become the UK's first relatives to be banned from shopping together after stealing from stores around the Black Country.

Janet Rollinson and son Stuart Round stuffed food and booze inside their clothes while shielding each other from view. But now the pair have been jailed and handed pioneering orders banning them from entering shops together.

It is believed to be the first time such a ban has been placed on family members in the UK.

The pair struck at Tesco Express in Kent Street, Upper Gornal, on April 14 before making off with £1,000 of clothes from Next in Wednesbury two days later, having sneaked behind a counter to de-tag items. Round walked out of Wordsley's Sainsburys Local on May 25 with eight steaks stuffed down his trousers, with Rollinson hiding chocolate in the same way.

Round grabbed bottles of spirits from Asda Netherton on May 27 and Rollinson was seen on Asda CCTV on the same day taking security tags from four bottles of Jack Daniels before walking off without paying.

Jailed

Rollinson, aged 51, of Forge Road, Stourbridge, was jailed for 28 weeks and Round, 26, of Wavell Street, Quarry Bank, for 36 weeks. Rollinson admitted three charges of theft and Round admitted five.

Detective Constable Matt Nightingale said: "These two have been a thorn in the side of retailers in Dudley for many years and have stolen thousands of pounds worth of stock, so we've taken a novel approach to curb their offending.

"The Criminal Behaviour Orders ban them from entering any shop together for the next five years and should they be found breaching the conditions they will be hauled before the courts and can expect to spend more time behind bars."

As well as being banned from entering stores together, Rollinson and Round are also prohibited from going into various shops individually in Dudley borough — a move welcomed by traders.

£300m vision for M5 site creating 6,000 jobs

AN ENTERPRISE zone could be created next to the M5 near Halesowen in a bid to attract £300 million of investment and generate around 6,000 jobs.

Dudley Council has announced it is working on proposals to transform land close to Junction 3 of the motorway.

Dudley Council's economic development boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said the borough suffered from a shortage of employment sites close to motorway junctions but had identified the M5 site as having the potential to attract firms.

The authority is looking to set up 'an enterprise zone-style investment site' on the land which borders Manor Way to the north and the motorway to the east.

Full proposals will be drawn up before a public consultation.

"One of the key issues which has hindered large scale inward investment in Dudley has been our lack of significant readily available employment sites near to motorway junctions," Councillor Ahmed said.

"We have now identified an area that has the potential to attract up to £300m of investment and to create over 6,000 new jobs, which would be a major economic boost to Dudley borough and allow us to play a key role in the regional growth agenda for the West Midlands over the next 10 years.

Links

"The land is on the motorway junction which would provide excellent transport links and create much-needed jobs but we will of course put the whole proposal out to full public consultation."

Members of the council's cabinet will be asked to authorise a study to explore the potential of the site. If approved, it will then form part of the review of the 'joint core strategy for the Black Country', which will start next year.

The planning document will provide guidelines for the future development of the region and as well as employment will look at retail, office, leisure, transport and environmental improvements for the coming years.

It follows the creation of the Dudley Business Investment Zone launched at the Waterfront in Brierley Hill in a bid to fill up empty office space and bring 1,600 jobs to the region by offering a two-year business rates holiday.

Slimmers lose their spare tyres

Oldswinford Slimming World members Lynn Lacey, Sandra Jones and Jude Clarke at Griffiths Tyre Services

AROUND 130 members of the Oldswinford Slimming Word group in Stourbridge have lost a staggering 61 stone – equivalent to 43 car tyres.

The members took on the Slimmer Summer Challenge over the space of six weeks, set by group consultant Kerry Morgan. So it was an end to ready meals, snacking on chocolate bars and trips to the takeaway. Instead, in came fruit, vegetables and exercise.

Sandra Jones, a 50-year-old mother of two from Pedmore, weighed around 16st and was up to a size 24. Now Mrs Jones, who works as a home help, says her healthier lifestyle has seen her lose 4st 9lbs over the past two years and she is now a size 14.

Jude Clarke, 37, from Brierley Hill, was once 13st and a size 18, two years after joining the group she is down to 10st and a size 10. The officer worker said: "It has given me so much more confidence"

Lynn Lacey joined when she weighed around 21st and is now 13-and-a-half stone, inspiring husband David, 62, to lose weight too

The group is raising funds for the Georgina Unit at Russells Hall Hospital through sponsored walks, runs and bike rides. The group meet on Wednesdays at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, from 4pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lenny loses weight after health scare

LENNY Henry has told how he shed three and a half stone after being warned by doctors he could develop type one diabetes.

The Dudley-born comedian, 56, said his mother was killed by the illness.

He told the Daly Mail's Weekend magazine: "My mum lost two legs through diabetes and eventually died from it, so I knew I had to lose weight. The doctor warned me I was heading the same way.

"Dieting is tedious but I feel better for it. It's hard, but like anything, if you put your mind to it, you can do it."

QE's new method to combat cancer

A BIRMINGHAM hospital is one of the first in the country to use a new cancer treatment.

Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital will carry out stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR). NHS England has invested a total of £15 million to allow up to 750 new patients a year to access the treatment at 17 centres across the country.

SABR is a modern and more precise delivery technique of radiotherapy which delivers high doses of radiation while causing less damage to the surrounding healthy tissue.

Awareness drive on blood disorder

THE Haemophilia Society has warned that hundreds of women in the Black Country may be unaware that they have a genetic bleeding disorder.

In women symptoms for a condition that affects the way blood clots include heavy periods, bruising easily and frequent or heavy nosebleeds.

The Haemophilia Society has launched an awareness campaign 'Talking Red' to alert people to the symptoms. Visit talkingred.org for more information.

South Staffs cycling initiative is praised

A SCHEME to get more people involved in cycling has been hailed a success by Gavin Williamson, MP for South Staffordshire.

The Kinver MP learned about the South Staffs Cycling Scheme while at the Brewood Cycle Challenge. Mr Williamson said: "This is a brilliant scheme. We are so lucky to be surrounded by such wonderful countryside in South Staffordshire and it is right that we take advantage of it through this cycle scheme."

Museum is popular

BEWDLEY Museum has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence for the second year running by travel website Trip Advisor. The museum in the riverside town's main thoroughfare Load Street has been described as a 'hidden gem', 'fabulous and free' and a 'little treasure in a beautiful town'.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Gove goes on warpath to cut out pomposity

JUSTICE Secretary Michael Gove has come in for a bit of stick over reports that he has banned civil servants from starting sentences with 'however' and using contractions such as 'doesn't' or 'can't'.

However – sorry, that one just slipped in – when it comes to some of the other terminology Mr Gove is trying to ban, then I'm right behind him. He wants mandarins to stop using 'impact' as a verb. He says they should avoid anything with a ring of pomposity.

It is high time somebody cracked down on the hateful, tortured language which still seems to be rife in the public sector.

'Signage' instead of signs, 'new builds' instead of new buildings. Lighting columns where there used to be street lamps, representations instead of objections. Public servants are there to serve the public, and that means speaking in the same language as the public. Not attempting to win Scrabble prizes.

And why do animal charities talk about 're-homing' strays? You don't re-home anything, you re-house it. Home is a noun, unless you are talking about pigeon racing.

Then, we have the dreadful expression 'on the go', which seems to be a favourite of anybody desperate to be perceived as dynamic and modern. According to a very annoying TV commercial doing the rounds at the moment, eating a cereal bar on your way to work constitutes 'breakfast on the go'.

Well, I'm sorry, but it doesn't. It might make you want to go, quite often I'm sure, but that is very different.

❒❒❒❒

I called into a well-known retailer in Walsall, arriving about 50 minutes before closing time. Shortly after, there was an announcement saying the ladies' changing rooms were soon to close. A few minutes later, it was repeated.

A little bit later, the public address system informed customers that the shop would be closing in 20 minutes, again repeated a short while later. The same happened again 15 minutes before closing.

Five minutes later, two separate members of staff asked me if I would mind making my way to the counter, as the store would be closing in 10 minutes.

What is it with these people? Look, I know these pesky customers are a pain, coming in the shop, mooching around and buying things. I know you would like to knock off early, without people queuing at the checkout, but it's what shops are for. How many times have we seen shop assistants locking the doors 10 minutes before closing time?

If a shop advertises itself as being open until 5.30pm, anybody who turns up at 5.29 should be allowed in without question. Needless to say, I made sure I made a point of hanging around until bang-on closing time.

Smethwick Toll House in High Street and its coach house

Langley Maltings in Oldbury, dating 1870, steeped in history

Heron Court in Rugeley, with its Tudor Gothic architecture

Taking stock of our crumbling heritage

People may be surprised to find many landmark buildings are on the at risk register. **ADAM BURLING** reports

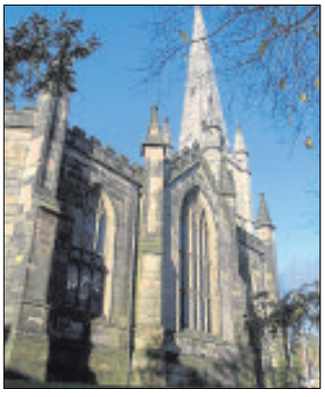
THEY have become familiar parts of the landscape to thousands of people who pass them every day.

But many may not realise that these historic buildings are among the country's most at risk sites.

Heritage campaigners have drawn up a list of buildings that they believe could end up knocked down or falling into disrepair if action is not taken.

And while some are instantly recognisable, others are less obvious. But they all form part of the Black Country and Staffordshire's rich heritage. The SAVE group, which is marking its 40th anniversary this year, is about to release its latest catalogue of at risk buildings. And English Heritage recently compiled a list of sites that are vulnerable to making way for developments.

Wolverhampton's Church of St Leonard has leaking gutters causing damage to stonework



Restoration – Top Church, Dudley High Street

Turnpike

Smethwick Toll House has been a fixture on the High Street since 1820 but it unlikely that the majority of shoppers or commuters pay it much attention each day. But it is among five sites in the West Midlands chosen by SAVE in its latest investigations.

The toll house and associated coach house is Grade II-listed and served the Birmingham, Dudley and Wolverhampton turnpike which was formed in 1760. The toll house and former coach house were most recently let as an art gallery, but have now been vacant for a number of years.

Meanwhile, Langley Maltings is steeped in the history of the Black Country's brewing industry. Originally dating from 1870, but substantially rebuilt in 1898, the Maltings are a well-known landmark in this part of Sandwell.

The site was built for the nearby Showell's Crosswell Brewery, with the 1898 buildings designed by Arthur Kinder & Son, notable brewery architects. Although the brewery changed hands several times, remarkably the maltings were still in use as late as 2006 and it was one of the last to use the traditional floor malting process.

An arson attack in 2009 caused considerable damage to the buildings, but English Heritage concluded that 'despite some unstable masonry, repairing the building would be relatively straightforward'.

An application for demolition was submitted by the owner in 2012, but the council rejected the plans after an outcry from residents. Businessmen Lehmber Singh and Harbhajan Singh Dhadday, who run D&S Enterprises, bought the property for £1 million in 2007.

Mr Dhadday said they were still hoping to submit a planning application to build housing. In Staffordshire, Heron Court has been singled out as an example of Tudor Gothic architecture. The building, in Heron Street, Rugeley, was constructed in 1851 at the time that Rugeley was expanding from a market town to a coal mining centre.

It was used as a convent and more recently as the home of a billiards club.

The site is now up for sale and, while it is in relatively good condition, there are fears it will be difficult to find a new use for it that will keep its historic features.

Meanwhile English Heritage has named two well-known Dudley churches on its list of landmarks under threat. St Thomas and St Luke's Church in High Street, Dudley, known as Top Church, is a shock new addition to this year's Heritage at Risk register. St John's Church in Dudley is now also on the list.

A total of 195 sites across the Black Country, Staffordshire and North Worcestershire have now been identified as being at risk in the latest survey. Five new buildings in the area, all of them churches, have been added.

However, nine buildings have been removed after finding a more secure future. St Thomas and St Luke's Church is considered to be Dudley's premier church and is used for civic functions. The Grade II listed building, built between 1815 and 1818, is said to be in 'poor' condition.

Ten years ago £528,000 was spent restoring its spire. Meanwhile, St John's Church in St John Street closed in 2002 for safety reasons after structural problems were discovered.

Worcester Diocese, which owns the building, initially said it may be declared redundant and demolished. However, the St John's Church Preservation Group was formed in 2007 to save the building, and it was granted Grade II-listed status in 2009.

William Perry, better known as The Tipton Slasher, who was England's bare-knuckle boxing champion from 1850 to 1857, and Marion Richardson, a well-known author of children's handwriting books, are among those buried in the churchyard. Other entries on the register include in Wolverhampton, St Luke's Church in Upper Villiers Street, said to be at severe risk as its condition is deteriorating rapidly, English Heritage says. It is described as in 'very bad' condition and as being 'of immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric'.

Built by GT Robinson of Leamington in 1860, the church's huge, decorated spire is a local landmark in the Blakenhall area. The problem of dry rot was addressed some years ago, but many other issues remain.

The city's Church of St Leonard, in Church Street, has leaking gutters that are damaging the stonework and causing water damage inside. It still has a number of original features from when it was built in 1825, but English Heritage says they could be lost if repairs are not carried out.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Smart way to keep motorists to speed limit

IT is with great disappointment that I have noticed that drivers are continuing to speed through the 40mph limit on the A456 Hagley Road, between the Hayley Green roundabout and the Clent turn-off.

This stretch of road has had an extremely poor accident record and was voted the third most dangerous in the country.

The daughter of my old school friend was killed here some time ago. It was his only child, and the shock and heartbreak of this tragedy led to his early death in 2009, aged 48.

Although a pelican crossing has been introduced, any motorist who dares to keep to the speed limit, including myself, will find themselves being tailgated by aggressive, self-important drivers, sometimes complete with abuse.

I would suggest speed average cameras but they are both ugly and expensive. Why then, does the Government not insist on cars being fitted with 'Smart' limiters? The technology has existed for these for some time. They basically use a GPS (Global Positioning System) location to link in with Engine Management Units to limit speed to whatever the limit is on that particular stretch of road.

These are almost the holy grail of road safety, and a major manufacturer has already introduced this system as an 'optional extra' on one of its car models. They should not be just an option.

A BROOK
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Bring back West Mids authority

MARK Andrews's column (June 11) may be heartfelt 'as a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country mon', but it's not enough to make a serious argument against the Combined Authority idea. Squabbling about Greater Birmingham ignores the serious problem of being left behind by London.

Although he dismisses the West Midlands County Council as "unlamented", there is a case for its revival. Until they were abolished by the Thatcher Government in 1986 they were elected and were big enough to have a strategic role. To return to shire counties, as Mark Andrews suggests, fails to recognise the shire-metropolitan distinction.

If London is to be challenged as the engine-room of the economy, we will need to focus on city-regions. The metropolitan county councils recognised this whilst providing democratic accountability.

JOHN PAYNE
Halesowen

Referendum would resolve mosque issue

I ATTENDED the Dudley Central Mosque exhibition and I have to disagree with your report. The exhibition did not show defiance by all the people present to the anti-mosque protest marches, in fact, there were many present who supported them. The people in the marches have the right to protest against the proposed mosque.

As a resident in Dudley I have sympathy for the market traders but the council and police could avoid much of the disruption if the marches were directed from the Hippodrome car park, up Castle Hill, left at Tower Street, past the Town Hall to demonstrate and return via Ednam Road.

The 30,000-plus who signed petitions showed their rejection of the mosque, the location being inappropriate with no relationship to Dudley's heritage or historical architecture. The structure would be an 'eyesore', too imposing, and adverse to the multiculturalism in Dudley. The council have a duty to comply with the Government's localism bill and within 'community empowerment' it states the Government is committed to give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue – this would finally settle the mosque outcome.

A PAGE
Dudley

I yam what I yam, not Brummie

I am in full agreement with N D Caddick of Coseley about keeping our roots in the Black Country.

Myself and many others in the Black Country do not want to become part of Birmingham or its poor relation, as will happen if Birmingham has a say.

I was born and bred in Smethwick but have lived in Halesowen for 18 years, and have always considered myself Black Country not a Birminghamite. When on holidays sometimes people have said 'I can tell you are from Birmingham'. I get very angry and tell them I am Black Country NOT A BRUMMY — and very proud of it.

I would like to say to all MPs and councillors, leave the Black Country alone, we are very proud of our history. Anyone who has a yearning to belong to Birmingham can go and live there. We Ay Brummies! We yam Black Country folk

MRS J GARFIELD
Halesowen

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Thornton in talk on Cadbury's

Kingswinford TG

THE June meeting began with chairman Enid Fennell congratulating members on the excellent display on the bring and buy stall. Members had certainly been very creative on the theme of strawberry and cream themed articles.

However, all that had to be put on hold until the formal necessary business was completed.

On a sad note, the recent death of former member Elsie Biggs was announced. Joan Graham was wished a speedy recovery as she was still in hospital.

On a much happier tone, Ann Rogers was presented with a lovely floral arrangement to mark a significant birthday. The quiz team were praised for coming second in the Federation quiz.

Sheila handed out the proposed venues for the luncheon club in the months before Christmas and then shocked everyone by announcing details of the December meeting/Christmas meal at The Lodge.

Kath Turner was thanked for the flowers which donated to the raffle as an extra prize.

Raffle winners were, Sandra Grey, Ena Baker and Barbara White.

Finally, having brought, the ladies then bought, raising a useful sum for guild funds.

The next monthly meeting will be on July 13 and the speaker will be Alan Thornton who will be talking about Cadbury's. It will be held in Kingswinford Community Centre and is open to non-members.

Giving the lowdown on 60s fashion icon

From left, Irene Smith, Ann Cooper, speaker Ruth Lowe and Sylvia Cope

Dudley South Ladies Luncheon Club

CHAIRMAN Mary Jones was delighted to welcome four visitors and 28 members to an excellent lunch at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath.

Guest Ruth Lowe arrived in a Mary Quant mini and wore her most famous black and white dress, peaked cap and white plastic boots for a talk on the 60s fashion icon

Members enjoyed the nostalgia of browsing through an exciting selection of Mary Quant dresses and accessories.

Ann Rogers reminded members about the visit to Moreton in the Marsh on July 7 and said a canal trip and cream tea had been arranged on August 18, departing from the Bonded Warehouse, Stourbridge.

The speaker on July 10 will be Ray Sturdy with a see and hear quiz and on August 14, instead of the usual luncheon, members are invited to a coffee morning at the home of Ann and Mike Rogers. This will include a raffle, bring and buy and refreshments.

Luncheons are held at the Kingfisher Hotel, on the second Friday each month, noon for 12.30 departing at 3pm. For further information ring the secretary on 01902 372984 or email maryjones30@sky.com

Max keen to give battle talk

Kingswinford & District Historical Society

THE society meets at the community centre, High Street, Kingswinford, on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

At the June meeting Max Keen, suitably attired, told of the Battle of Agincourt.

In dramatic fashion he set the scene of the battle that took place on Friday October 25, 1415. Henry encountered the French army of 20,000 men, 6,000 French troops were killed while the English deaths amounted to just over 400.

Henry is regarded as having won one of the greatest victories of military history. Max showed his heavy armour and the weapons that would have been used.

On July 6, John Billingham will speak on 'Worcestershire Images'.

New members and visitors will be warmly welcomed. Further details from Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Teenager locked up for assault with bat

A 17-year-old youth who hit a man over the head with a bat – causing life-changing injuries – has been locked up for 18 months.

The devastating blow left Tariq Mahmood with weakness to the right side of his body as well as difficulties with speech and memory, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The injury was so serious that a section of the 37-year-old's skull had to be removed during surgery, causing permanent disfigurement.

The jury at an earlier trial cleared his attacker, who is 6ft 2ins tall and 16 stone, of attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm with intent, but convicted him on the lesser charge of causing grievous bodily harm.

Mr Robert Price, prosecuting, said: "These events have had a profound physical and psychological effect on Mr Mahmood and his family. There has been permanent disfigurement."

Mr Trevor Siddle, defending, said: "The defendant accepts he hit Mr Mahmood with the bat but it is unlikely, given the verdict on the more serious counts and the medical evidence, that the jury believed there was more than one blow. But the event and its consequences will remain with the defendant for the rest of his life."

Attacked

Mr Mahmood was attacked outside his Dudley home in August last year after going to the assistance of his 19-year-old stepson Ajmal Choudhary, who was fighting with one of several people who had arrived at the address.

The 17-year-old, who was of previous good character and aged 16 at the time, cannot be identified for legal reasons.

He had the time spent in custody awaiting trial deducted from the proposed sentence before it was passed. He received an 18-month detention and training order.

Back to school for pop star

Shop girl turned singing sensation Beth Sherburn, from Gornal, will be promoting an anti-bullying message at a Wolverhampton school

A BLACK Country pop princess is returning to her roots as part of a national anti-bullying campaign.

Beth Sherburn, of Gornal, will this week perform at Tettenhall College as part of the campaign to raise awareness of cyber bullying.

Sherburn recently toured with The Saturdays and teamed up with US rap star Lil Wayne for her first international single Joker.

Now she is using her fame to speak to youngsters about the potential dangers of the internet, as part of a campaign that has seen her perform at several West Midlands schools in recent months. Jeffrey Shipway, deputy head at Tettenhall College, said: "We are thrilled that Beth will be performing at the school. It will be an exciting event for pupils but it also highlights a very serious issue."

As well as performing at a special assembly tomorrow (Friday), the singer will chat with pupils and sign autographs.

The former shop girl was spotted by a music mogul as she sang while she worked at Debenhams in Merry Hill — and was given a £250,000 record deal.

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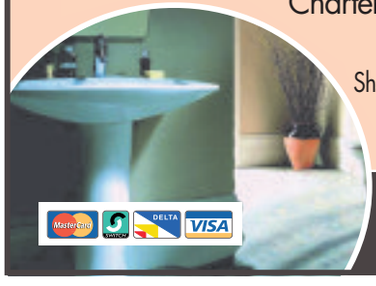

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Drunken racist thug walks free from court

A DRUNK who hurled racist abuse at an Asian neighbour and hit him over the head has been spared jail.

Unemployed Shane Whyte, 35, had downed 14 cans of lager before launching the verbal and physical attack on 58-year-old grandfather Abdul Wahid at a block of flats in Highgate Road, Holly Hall.

Mr Jim Mason, prosecuting, told Dudley Magistrates Court: "The victim heard objects being thrown down and, when he looked up, saw this man standing on a balcony. The defendant shouted at him 'What are you looking at Paki? Why don't you go back to your own country?'"

Whyte, a father-of-four, came down stairs to confront Mr Wahid with a three feet long piece of wood, which he allegedly picked up in the street. He then hit the victim over the head and ran off after a passing motorists stopped the assault, which took place at around 6pm on June 21 last year.

Eviction

Miss Tanya Johnson, defending, said Whyte claimed to have punched the victim in the face and struck him with the wood once but remembered little of the incident.

The lawyer said Whyte was now seeking treatment for his drinking and was trying to find private rented accommodation after being served with an eviction order, which meant he faced the prospect of his children being taken away.

Whyte admitted racially aggravated assault and was given a 16-week jail sentence suspended for a year with 100 hours unpaid work and £280 costs. There was no order for compensation because the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board has paid Mr Wahid £1,000.

District Judge Wheeler told Whyte: "You are facing eviction. There is a also a risk of your children being taken from you. If I lock you up that will hurt your wife and children.They need you out of prison."

Baggeridge bricks recycled

Wayne Berry, site manager, Paul Moore, assistant site manager, and Lee Rowley, contracts manager, with one of the walls at Baggeridge Village

BRICKS leftover from Baggeridge Brickworks, near Sedgley, have been recycled by developers building a 170-home estate at the site.

David Wilson Homes Mercia is using bricks made at the former brickworks on the site around its Baggeridge Village scheme, including walls designed to provide screening between properties.

The firm has also said it will use some of the bricks at its 46-home Woodthorne development in Tettenhall.

Lee Rowley, Contracts Manager at the Baggeridge Village development, said: "When David Wilson Homes Mercia began working on the disused brownfield site, the housebuilder discovered thousands of discarded bricks.

"Rather than removing these bricks from the site, and after realising they would suit the character and style of the new homes, I decided to incorporate them into the new development."

The development off Gospel End Road includes two, three, four and five-bedroom homes as well as 12 craft workshops and a 60-bedroom nursing home.

Search is now on for the borough's top volunteers

DUDLEY Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) is on the hunt for nominations for its Volunteer of the Year awards recognising those who selflessly give their time to help others.

People are now been asked to put forward their favourite individual volunteers or group of volunteers who have made a difference through their unpaid work in the community.

Each year the Dudley CVS awards have a theme and this year's awards have been inspired by the smash hit 1991 film, The Commitments, about a group of young musicians. Taking this theme, the promotional posters for the awards show a group of local volunteers who have all made their own commitment to a cause they are passionate about.

Dudley Volunteer Centre development officer Eileen Fielding said: "The people featured on the posters are real volunteers in Dudley. They demonstrate the age spread of volunteering in Dudley, from the very young to, let's say, the more mature.

Dudley CVS Awards are presented in a number of categories – community action, children and families, healthy communities, wellbeing, sporting champion, arts and heritage and businesses supporting local not-for-profit groups. There are also awards for young volunteer of the year under the age of 25 and long service to volunteering.

Nominees must be unpaid and volunteer in the Dudley borough. The closing date for nominations is August 21 and the ceremony will be on October 15. Forms can be picked up from borough libraries and Dudley Council Plus or downloaded from www.dudleycvs.org.uk. Or call Dudley CVS on (01384) 573381.

Eileen Fielding, volunteering centre development officer, and Dale Pickin publicise Dudley CVS awards

Libraries looking for more Friends

DUDLEY libraries are appealing for residents to help shape the future of the borough's library service.

The Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Libraries have organised meetings to for potential new members.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We recognise the huge contribution that Friends groups can make to improving and developing library services. Working together can help ensure that the library service is relevant to local people."

The Friends of Kingswinford and Wordsley Libraries are inviting library users to a coffee morning on Thursday, July 16, from 10.30am to 12.30pm where they can find out more. The event takes place at Wordsley Library, Wordsley Green, and also features a ukulele performance by the Kingswinford and District Strummers.

The library service is keen to establish Friends groups at all Dudley borough libraries. There are also groups at Cradley Library and Lye Library.

To find out more call into a Dudley library or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/libraries for contact details.

£325k offer to end saga over plan for mosque

SENIOR councillors in Dudley were today (Thursday) due to discuss the offer of an out of court settlement to end the long-running saga over controversial plans to build a new mosque in Dudley.

Dudley Muslim Association (DMA) has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop court action blocking plans to build the mosque off Hall Street.

If the proposal from the DMA is accepted the group would retain ownership of the site and the council would end its bid to invoke its buy-back clause.

But the leader of the council's Conservative opposition has dubbed it a 'shabby deal' and UKIP councillors have vowed to force a full council meeting and vote on the issue.

Both Dudley Council and the DMA are due back in court in October. So far the council has spent £213,000 in legal costs.

UKIP and Conservative councillors say spending that money only to settle a deal at this stage would be wrong. But council leader Councillor Pete Lowe said they want the best possible deal for taxpayers.

It is believed the value of the site is around £150,000.

Leader Councillor Pete Lowe

Costly

"This has been a costly exercise for everyone," said Councillor Lowe.

"We have been approached by the Dudley Muslim Association who are keen to avoid any further costly legal disputes for both sides.

"We are carefully considering that offer in the interests of everyone concerned.

"As far as the council is concerned this is about the ownership of the land and getting the best deal for the council taxpayers of this borough."

The proposal will go to scrutiny committees for consideration at a later date.

More than 80,000 people signed petitions against plans for the mosque, which would replace the Dudley Central Mosque in Castle Hill. The controversy has sparked five protests by far-right groups in five years, including three so far this year alone.

Opposition Conservative group leader, Councillor Patrick Harley, hit back saying: "This is a shabby deal coming in behind closed doors through the cabinet."

UKIP group leader Councillor Brothwood said: "After years of pursuing this matter through the legal process, and winning at great cost, it is alarming that a cabinet report has been produced to potentially allow the mosque to be built without it going to full council."

Amjid Raza, spokesperson for the DMA, said his organisation were awaiting a response from Dudley Council.

Dudley Council's cabinet were due to discuss the proposal today.

Doctor is a Heart Hero

A CARDIOLOGIST from Dudley has been recognised for her long-standing contribution to fighting heart disease.

Dr Jane Flint, who works for the Dudley Group NHS Trust, was the recipient of the Influencing Heart Hero award from the British Heart Foundation. For more than 30 years she has championed the voice of patients, establishing Cardiovascular Care Partnership UK.

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Bird watchers will flock to new centre

WITH stunning views across grassland, ponds and hundreds of trees in the distance, it is the perfect vantage point for a spot of bird watching.

This is just one of the areas where visitors to the new RSPB centre at Sandwell Valley nature reserve will be able to observe wildlife.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is a charitable organisation and construction of the society's £400,000 Nature's Reach complex is now complete, with work now focused on fitting out the inside of the facility.

Around 1,500 residents have been invited to have the first look at the centre on July 15, with the new centre to open fully to the public later that week.

It is the moment the RSPB has been waiting for since the old building in Sandwell Valley was severely damaged in a devastating arson attack in 2010.

Terrace

But the sparkling new complex has risen from the ashes, with the two-storey modern-looking building also fitted with a porch and terrace area.

The centre will not only be used by staff and visitors, but also volunteers and community groups. It means visitors will once again be able watch flocks of ducks, geese, swans and lapwings from the lakeside lookout at Sandwell Valley, as well as taking in views of the valley and Forge Mill Lake.

Alex Sharrod, visitor officer for RSPB Sandwell, said: "We are all very excited about the fast approaching opening of our new visitor centre, Nature's Reach.

"I have watched every step of the build for the past 10 months but still the view from inside takes my breath away every time I walk in.

"I can't wait to open the doors for everyone to come and enjoy the view and the rest of our nature reserve as much I do."

Since the arson attack in 2010, volunteers were forced to use a temporary cabin as their office and teaching space.

The valley has large areas of woodland, meadows, pools and streams, as well as two working farms and a network of trails.

The RSPB is appealing for more volunteers who can help out at the visitor centre when it opens.

For details call the 0121 357 7395 or email nadia.shaikh@rspb.org.uk for more information.

Administrator Lesley Jennings admires the view over the reserve from the new RSPB centre in Sandwell Valley

£120m eco park is back on the agenda after three year wait

PLANS for a £120 million 'eco park' with homes and a waste processing plant are being revived after being put on hold three years ago.

The development in Coseley was given the go-ahead by Dudley Council in May 2012.

Since then there has been no work carried out on the land off Sedgley Road East, while the project's website has been taken down.

Bosses say they struggled to attract investment but are now preparing to unveil a fresh set of plans.

The exact details are being kept under wraps but development bosses say it will not be 'radically different' from what was originally proposed.

A supermarket is not expected to form part of the new development and it is not known whether the waste plant will remain in the blueprint.

Graham Willson, director of site owners Skelton Group Investments, said: "Things are progressing well and we have been in discussions with Dudley Council.

Alternatives

"The market has changed considerably in the years since we started the plans, in particular with regard to food stores, but we are looking closely at alternatives."

He added the full proposals would be revealed soon.

Residents who opposed the plans fear they could have another fight on their hands.

Resident Carla Lavender Ward, of Thunderbolt Way, said: "Something needs to be done with the land but the original plans would have caused too much traffic."

School has to improve quickly say inspectors

A SCHOOL in Dudley has been told it is not improving quickly enough following its Ofsted inspection.

Holly Hall Academy 'requires improvement' in the four key areas looked at by the inspectors.

The Ofsted officials focussed on leadership and management, pupil behaviour and safety, quality of teaching and achievement during their visit on May 6 and 7. Their report said students had not made good progress 'for some time' at the academy in Scotts Green Close, while attainment was said to be 'not yet good', despite recent improvements.

By Peter Madeley

Teaching was rated as 'improving but not yet good', with the quality of teaching in science lessons branded 'weak' and teachers' expectations 'too low'.

Lead inspector Sherry Gladwin said that overall: "Teachers do not check that students follow advice and make corrections to their work as advised to help improve their learning.

Literacy

"Students have limited opportunities to practise their literacy skills in a range of subjects.

"Some teachers do not mark students' written work with the rigour and consistency required."

The behaviour of a minority of students was said to 'sometimes disrupt learning', while a small number of students were said to be either 'persistently absent' or 'arrive late'.

Senior leaders and heads of departments had not fully evaluated the effect of actions taken to raise achievement, according to the report. This meant they did not always know which of their strategies had made the most difference.

Inspectors noted that 'the large majority' of students were polite and friendly. Behaviour in lessons was also praised, as was the academy's student mentoring service.

"The curriculum provides a balance of work-related and academic courses that appeal to students' interests and aptitudes," added the lead inspector, concluding that although Holly Hall had made 'good progress' to eradicate weaknesses identified in its last inspection in 2014, it was not yet a 'good' school.

Acting principal Denise Malone said the report matched the academy's own evaluation.

"Importantly, the inspectors recognised that we are aware of the areas that need improvement," she said. "Senior staff, together with governors are already working on the action plan."

Call for more funds

AN MP has renewed calls for local police to get a fairer share of funds after Dudley's station closed to the public.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin says Dudley is the largest town in the country without a police station open to the public. He added: "People want more police on the streets, more offenders brought before court and more criminals put in jail."

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Face to face with the men who made a classic

ONE of Ziggy Stardust's Spiders from Mars is joining forces with rock producer Tony Visconti to pay tribute to David Bowie's early career at a concert in Birmingham.

Guest singers including Marc Almond and Heaven 17's Glenn Gregory will be joining drummer Woody Woodmansey's group Holy Holy to perform in full Bowie's The Man Who Sold The World album, recorded 45 years ago, at the O2 Academy on Monday.

New Yorker Visconti, who has worked with Bowie intermittently from his breakthrough album Space Oddity in 1969 until 2013's comeback The Next Day, said: "One reason I'm looking forward to playing The Man Who Sold the World album in its entirety again is because lots of people ask me if I still play bass. I do but I've since rarely played anything as ambitious and demanding as the music of that great batch of songs conceived by David Bowie.

"Eventually the album sold a million or two. A great homage to us was to hear Nirvana perform the title track unplugged in the '90s on an MTV special, note for note. A lot of people still believe that Kurt Cobain wrote it."

Visconti is also famous for recordings with T. Rex and in more recent years recorded Morrissey and Kaiser Chiefs. Also performing will be singer Lisa Ronson, daughter of late Spiders from Mars guitarist Mick Ronson, top session guitarist Paul Cuddeford and former Chelsea and Gene Loves Jezebel guitarist James Stevenson.

After playing The Man Who Sold the World album in full, the band will go on to play many of Bowie's greatest songs from the 1969 to '73 era, including Ziggy Stardust and, Woody Woodmansey's signature tune on drums, Five Years.

Tony Visconti played bass on the album

Bowie drummer Woody Woodmansey

Special guest Marc Almond will be singing Bowie classics in Birmingham

Yorkshire rocker Woodmansey, who also drummed on The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars, Hunky Dory and Aladdin Sane, said: "When we recorded TMWSTW album with David Bowie and Mick Ronson we were all looking forward to presenting it to audiences in a live situation as we felt it would be exciting for us and them. This never came to pass until September last year. From the first song in rehearsals, Width Of A Circle, it was obvious that we were right about our earlier excitement. Each song had its own special magic, as Bowie songs do. We stayed true to the spirit and essence of the songs whilst adding a contemporary edge."

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Teenagers should have a say on EU

A MAJORITY of MPs voted against giving 16 and 17-year-olds a say in the EU Referendum and I'm struggling to understand why.

This might be a last flash of youthful angst, the dying embers of aspiration or, as The Who might have put it, a teenage wasteland.

But I really don't see why 308 MPs, a majority of 41 who took part, thought that the under 18s did not deserve a shot at shaping the country they are going to have to spend (for most of them) the rest of their lives in.

The slightly surly argument is that before the age of 18 people can have sex, get married, join the army and learn to drive – all of which are things that result in either the creation of life or the responsibility of bearing the risk of ending someone's.

Restrict

This falls down a little, of course. For a start, soldiers must be 18 to actually go to war. And marriage can only happen earlier than that with the permission of parents.

We could start listing all the other things the under 18s can't do as well – buy alcohol, cigarettes, fireworks and so on – and give that as a reason not to extend the vote.

And we could use the argument that turnout among young people, particularly the 18 to 24 age group, is already pitifully low when it comes to elections.

City MP Pat McFadden

Labour's Barry Sheerman

But the independence referendum isn't an election. I find myself in agreement with the Labour MP for Wolverhampton South East, Pat McFadden, the party's shadow Europe minister. He said: "If we are to leave and as a result of that we decide that we're going to restrict the rights of other European citizens to come to live and work in the UK then be sure there will be reciprocal action taken against young people from the United Kingdom.

"So the rights that British citizens currently enjoy because we are part of the European Union, to live, work and study throughout the rest of the European Union are directly at stake in this referendum.

"And I believe that's a very strong reason, even setting aside the general debate about the rights of 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in elections as a whole, for giving those citizens the right to vote in this referendum.

"Their future is directly at stake."

On the subject of the EU Referendum Bill and the 'yoof' vote, Pat McFadden had to respond to perhaps the most bonkers argument ever for denying it to under 18s.

Labour's Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield, said letting 16 and 17-year-olds vote would 'shrink childhood' and even added: "The move to have adults at 16 will make a lot of young men and women more vulnerable to sexual predation."

Mr McFadden replied: "All I would say to you is maturity is not an exact science." Neither, it seems in Mr Sheerman's case, is saying things in Parliament that aren't a bit bonkers.

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For more information please see our website www.blanford.dudley.sch.uk Visits are welcome.

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CONGRATULATIONS YEAR 6!

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We will miss you! Good luck!

"It's been marvellous going on lots of trips!" - SH

Quotes from pupils:

"It's been amazing having fun whilst learning!" - CS

"It's been an amazing experience changing and being challenged through each of the years" - RL

Bromley Hills Primary School, Granville Drive, Kingswinford, West Midlands, DY6 8LW Tel: 01384 816940 Website: www.bromhills.dudley.sch.uk

Bramford Primary School

Goodbye Year 6

GRIFFIN SCHOOLS TRUST

I have enjoyed my time at Bramford at the teachers have helped me achieve high levels. - Tom

I enjoy the sports at Bramford and the progress I have made since Year 5 is great. - Myriam

It is a really good school that has given me a good education. - Jack

This school is good because the teachers care for everyone. - Keanu

All the staff at Bramford Primary School say goodbye to Year 6 children and wish them lots of luck for the future.

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Her Majesty The Queen on a visit to Wolves Molineux ground in 1962

A Warners promotional film from 1965

West Midlands band Kansas Hook in a 1970 promotional film

Princess Margaret visits Telford in 1970

One of the salvaged archive pictures showing progress with a purpose in 1964

Archive footage saved thanks to Lottery grant

MEMORY LANE

By Jordan Harris

HOURS of archive film footage showing Wolverhampton life from the 50s to the 70s have been rescued from the brink of extinction thanks to a lottery funded preservation project.

The footage, shot by production company Warners, includes the Queen's visit to the town in May 1962 and a military parade by the South Staffordshire Regiment in the same year.

A 1961 Black Country travelogue, a promotional film for the West Midlands band Kansas Hook shot in 1970, and even News Travels Fast – a day in the life of the Express & Star, filmed in 1960 are also featured.

Wolverhampton City Archives in partnership with the Media Archive for Central England (Mace) has carried out the work to preserve the film records, which were at risk of becoming unusable due to vinegar syndrome, which causes film to decay.

More than 50 different recordings have now been digitised and reconstructed and archive volunteers have been researching the backgrounds of some of the people and companies featured in the collection.

For Sallie Birtwisle, who grew up in Penn, the project has brought back memories of the happiest day of her life. She was contacted by Mace and told that the video document of her wedding day had been restored.

Sallie, now 73 and living in Nantwich, Cheshire, had never seen the video of her happy day, which was held at Christ Church in Tettenhall Wood on July 31, 1965.

She said being able to see her late husband Richard and all of their friends and family again was 'the best thing to happen to me all year'.

She said: "It was absolutely wonderful to watch the day back.

"What is particularly great about this for me is that my grandchildren can see all of these people who they have only had access to before through still images. It would have been great for Richard to see it." The results of the project are now on display until August 5 at an exhibition called Rescuing Warners, held at Wolverhampton City Archives on Whitmore Hill.

Mace senior curator and member Phil Leach said: "A lot of these films haven't been seen for around 40 or 50 years. It has taken a lot of hard work to get the films to this stage and everyone has done a great job."

Founded by Matthew Richard Warner as a chemist, Warners, was based in Chapel Ash from at least 1901, and by 1915 also had a branch on Stafford Road. It branched out into photographic supplies in the 1920s, and by 1955 M R Warner & Son Ltd was advertising itself as a photographic, cine and visual aid specialist. It was the official photographer for the council in 1960.

In the 1960s it also operated a large department for commercial photography, producing promotional films for local industries, and still had a presence in Chapel Ash into the 1980s. The films were donated to Wolverhampton archives by representatives of Warners in 1992.

An old Wolverhampton film footage on BBC Tonight

Senior Mace curator Philip Leach with one of the old Warners films that has been rescued

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

WINDOW COMPANY GLAZED IN SUCCESS - NEW SHOWROOM SET TO OPEN!

DW Windows Ltd has been established for almost ten years and the company has gone from strength to strength. Since moving into our showroom is Sedgley in 2010, the company had grown rapidly from two to six fitting teams who are directly employed as opposed to using sub-contractors. The management and administration team were also expanded to ensure that the company could have a strong focus on customer service and after sales advice.

Despite the growth, the business is still very family run with the Company Director, Dave Walters heavily involved with his management team to ensure the standards of installations remains high. There are five other family members within the business including Claire Walters, Dave's wife who has joined the company to assist with Health & Safety and HR requirements. Dave has also promoted staff and we now have a dedicated Operations Director and Sales Director to ensure that all members of the team and all departments are well managed to cope with the success and growth.

Our company ethos is 'if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing right'. We pride ourselves on our professionalism, workmanship, quality and aftersales and this is why we have continued to succeed despite the last nine years of economic uncertainty.

We now have 4500 customers on our books. We took on 676 customers last year alone and 60 - 70% of these were recommendations or repeat business from existing customers having more work done. This is testament to our high levels of customer satisfaction and quality workmanship.

Foundations of the company have been strengthened by continuing to maintain our CHAS (Construction Health & Safety Scheme) accreditation and ensuring that all of our staff are well trained and supported. We have an external health & safety advisor who delivers training to our staff, inspects their work and ensures that we are working safely and competently on customers properties, performing first class installations. We have also attained contracts commercially, changing windows and doors for housing associations which has given our company a fantastic boost.

This success and expansion has resulted in us outgrowing our showroom in Sedgley. Over the past few months DW Windows have been renovating additional new premises.

Our aim is to keep our local Sedgley office open as we feel it is important for our customers to have a local showroom they can visit, however the new Window, Door and Conservatory Centre in Meadow Lane, Coseley is on a much larger scale and DW Windows Ltd have been able to showcase all of the fantastic products on offer. We wanted to create an area where customers can actually see what they would be investing their money in to improve their home and whilst a brochure can give you an idea, there is nothing like seeing an installation completed.

Our expansion has created an additional six new jobs in order for us to continue to expand and deliver our fantastic customer service. Our aim was to open one of the largest showrooms in the Midlands and we are so excited to be achieving this. On display we have eight conservatories and orangeries inside and outside the showroom. Conservatories have various roof options including an equinox tiled roof and living room glass roof, to give customers idea's. We have two stunning orangeries constructed, bi fold doors, patios, porches and a wide range of UPVC and composite doors on display. We have many different styles of windows and all of the different coloured profiles that are now on offer including UPVC and aluminium profiles.

We are planning a grand opening of our new Window, Door & Conservatory Centre on Friday 10th July from 09.00hrs - 17.00 hrs and Saturday 11th July from 09.00hrs - 16.00hrs. Come and visit us at 8, Meadow Lane, Coseley, WV14 9NQ, view our fantastic increased product range and meet our dedicated team of staff we are so proud of.

Derry's usual suspects have nothing to prove

By Danny Farragher

THE one thing you can never do where musician Derry Jones is concerned is question his dedication to his music.

The singer/songwriter, originally from Halesowen, works full time as a marketing co-ordinator and, with his wife Debby, from Penn, Wolverhampton runs The Woodman Folk Club, Kingswinford.

If this wasn't enough he is also part of a four piece band, Nothing to Prove, who are just about to release their second album.

In between all this he has managed, with his fellow band members, Debby, Paul Bedingfield and Rob O'Dell to produce the album which has been several years in the making not least because the band was hit by a sad loss.

"The album is called Unusual Suspects and although it's our second album it's a first with new mandolin player Rob," explains Jones

Illness

O'Dell was brought in when original band member Trevor Durden sadly died in 2010 after a long illness. Not surprisingly this caused the album to be delayed and it was only about three years ago that the impetus to put the album together was gained again.

"We decided to kick-start the album again but had to give Rob time to learn all the new stuff and we were still writing material at that point as well. Fortunately with the songs we already have and ones we have continued to write hopefully the next album will be along quicker."

"Ironically it's been a bit of a rush to get it finished for our deadline date because we are going to showcase it at The Woodman on July 3. I write songs and so does Paul and with the 12 tracks we have a sort of half and half mix, there some covers but there are half a dozen of our songs as well."

Derry and Debby Jones one half of the band Nothing To Prove

Nothing To Prove have been together for 15 years since they met at Bridgnorth Folk Festival and their debut album Open Verdict came out a coupld of years later. "

So what can people expect to hear on the album?

"They are all songs that people will know because we have performed them live at festivals and at the club. So this album is a collection of those songs which people will be familiar with."

"We don't take ourselves seriously hence the name Nothing To Prove, it's not us being big headed, it's that we are doing it for a laugh, for enjoyment and that's it. There is a song on there called Folk Festival Virgin which is about going to a festival for the very first time. There is humour on there and there are a couple of seafaring songs.This album has grown with us and we have grown with it, it's been good fun. We are looking forward to launching it," he added.

Nothing To Prove will be launching Unusual Suspects on July 3 at The Woodman Folk Club, Ashwood Marina, Kingswinford from 8.30pm. Entry is £4 for members and £5 for non members.

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A standing ovation for Broadway belter Idina

Idina Menzel, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

BROADWAY'S brightest star opened her UK tour in Birmingham and it was such a priceless night for Midlands musical theatre fans that their standing ovation at the end of her non-stop 110 minute concert showed they didn't want to Let It Go.

The 44-year-old star of Rent and Wicked, best known as the voice of Elsa in Disney's Frozen, showed plenty of chutzpah by opening with her second most popular song, Wicked's Defying Gravity, most familiar of a slew of empowerment anthems that the 21st century equivalent to Streisand has made her own.

Between the belters her banter showed impish good humour and she apologised for occasional earthy language, and besides the big musical numbers she threw a few surprise curve balls, such as an impassioned version of Radiohead's Creep and and a mash up of Cole Porter's Love For Sale with The Police's Roxanne. Her own songs such as Brave and I Stand, co-written with Glen Ballard, held up beside the classics too.

The highlights were Take Me Or Leave Me, from cult musical Rent, in which she shared the mic with several willing young singers from the audience, all of whom did themselves proud, also a tear-jerking a cappella version of For Good and the inevitable, triumphant sing-along-a-Idina version of Let It Go.

Witches from a royal nightmare in new ballet The King Dances *Picture: Bill Cooper*

Fortuna favours a brave and still thrilling ballet

The King Dances, Carmina burana, Birmingham Hippodrome

A SEASON of performances marking David Bintley's 20th anniversary as director of Birmingham Royal Ballet began with a double bill pairing his latest work with his first creation for the company.

Both the world premiere performance of The King Dances and the revival of his calling card at Birmingham, Carmina burana, were spectacular and dramatic, though it was the 1995 ballet danced to Carl Orff's stirring music that got the standing ovation.

The King Dances is inspired by an episode that gave birth to ballet when, in 1653, the teenaged King Louis XIV of France danced the role of Apollo in Le Ballet de la Nuit at the Louvre Palace in Paris.

Le Ballet de la Nuit was rumoured to have lasted 12 hours but Bintley's ballet comes in at a more reasonable 35 minutes. This atmospherically lit piece, in which almost all the roles are danced by men as was the custom then, begins with flaming torches brought on stage by royal retainers.

REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

William Bracewell deserved the limelight for his graceful and suitably regal portrayal of the young ruler, especially as he wooed the Moon, a superb performance from Yijing Zhang in the only female role.

The most impressive scene was when the King's dream-like adventure turned to nightmare, as the midnight rambling monarch is jostled, pawed and hauled around by a pack of demons, werewolves and long-haired wraiths.

Carmina burana was a feast for the eyes and the ears from the moment soloist Celine Gittens seized the audience's attention with her clockwork precision as a sexy but menacing Fortuna to that electrifying piece of music that has become familiar from TV, film and even football stadiums.

Bintley's version of Sylvia will be staged at the Hippodrome until June 27.

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Five fab reasons for future success

There is plenty going on in Dudley.

Regeneration of the town will herald an exciting future.

But do you know everything about Dudley's bright future?

Here are some interesting facts about the town that you may or may not already know:

- 12,000 full and part-time students as part of a new £50m FE campus
- 650 new housing units in the town centre either recently completed, on site or consented
- £7m investment in transforming the town's historic market place and its public realm
- £3m invested in 19 of the town's most important historic/listed buildings
- £40m package being negotiated/developed for the development of a light rail innovation centre in the town centre and the re-introduction of a live rail connection to Birmingham city centre and HS2

Tourism on the rise with top attractions

MORE and more people are visiting Dudley's tourist attractions according to recent figures.

Visitors to the Castle Hill attractions for 2014 were up by nearly a quarter on the year before, pulling in more than half a million people between them.

Three attractions, Dudley Zoological Gardens, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust are hoping for an even better 2015.

Figures released by the Black Country Living Museum showed an increase of more than 31,000 people visiting the attraction in 2014 compared to 2013.

Last year 271,467 people enjoyed the award-winning attraction compared with 240,088 in 2013.

Increase

Dudley Zoological Gardens reported a 25 per cent increase in visitors in 2014 compared with 2013 after attracting 290,000 visitors.

And Dudley Canal Trust saw its figures up overall by 23 per cent for the last quarter of 2014 against the same time period in 2013, with total 2014 figures being 10 per cent up on 2013.

The news comes as the Castle Hill site continues with its £10.1m regeneration scheme to double visitor numbers to more than one million and to provide significant private sector investment and new jobs.

The multi-million pound scheme, which started in 2012, includes the creation of a new entrance off Tipton Road, to create one shared arrival point, a new physical link between the three existing attractions and the new archive and local history centre, a brand new entrance to Dudley Zoological Gardens, visitor hub and a new 700 space car park with coach drop off facilities.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member responsible for tourism, said: "The full scope of Castle Hill is yet to be completed but recent figures go to show what impact the multi-million pound investment in the area is having on three world-class visitor attractions.

"Not only is it good news for each of the attractions, but it surely has to be good for the borough and the region as a whole.

"There is much more to come on this including the very light rail innovation centre, which although is in early stages, will be key to bringing more tourists to the borough than ever before."

The Castle Hill Vision project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The Black Country Living Museum remains a popular attraction

Modernisation – an artist's impression of Dudley Canal Trust

The town's castle is situated in the Dudley Zoological Gardens

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Veterans will formally be presented with badges and medals at Himley Hall

Go along to the event, taking place on June 28

Showing support for armed forces

ON Sunday June 28, crowds will gather at Himley Hall and Park for the borough's biggest family day out, as Armed Forces Day 2015 gets under way.

Celebrating the work of servicemen and women, the annual event is set to be bigger and better than ever.

The event opens at 11am and admission is free. Families won't be disappointed as there's something for everyone from climbing walls and a Ferris Wheel to Punch and Judy shows, military vehicles and a WW1 living history camp.

The popular youth marching band competition will return in the event's main arena and people will be able to meet members of local military organisations in the park.

For the first time ever, the event will have vintage flair with Kiki and Honey's vintage fair celebrating everything British and transporting the event back in time to the 1940s. Performances by N.C big band will add to the 40s theme.

At 1.50pm (weather permitting) the rumble of engines will be heard across the park as spectators are treated to a Battle of Britain Memorial Dakota flypast. The Dakota became one of the world's most famous military transport aircrafts during the Second World War and it will be a privilege to see it fly over Himley.

Formal proceedings will start at 2.30pm, with the prestigious Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment performing.

Armed forces veterans will formally be presented with badges and medals by the Mayor of Dudley and the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service will return for another year to perform a concert.

Borough cadets will also take to the arena to perform drills and the spectacular Beating the Retreat will bring the wonderful event to a close.

Go along for what promises to be a fantastic day!

Find out more details by visiting the website at www.dudley.gov.uk/armedforcesday

£6.7 million makeo-

Finishing touches are being made to Dudley's new 74-stall market

The £6.7m regeneration of Dudley's historic market place is on track to be completed this summer.

Work on the project has already transformed the town centre. The grand unveiling will take place later this year.

The improvements span the heart of the town, from the junction of the market place and High Street, through to the junction of Castle Street and Castle Hill.

Finishing touches are being made to the newly built 74-stall market, complete with a central glass roof, which floods the market with natural light.

High quality paving, feature lighting and new street furniture are also being installed. A welcome new element for Dudley will be the addition of several new artworks which celebrate Dudley's rich heritage.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said:

"The works in Dudley are well underway and already we can see a new, fresh town centre emerging.

"As well as modernising the town, there is also a focus on honouring Dudley's fascinating history.

"Medieval passageways have been conserved, our beautiful Victorian fountain is being restored, statues are being renovated and brand new artworks and a history trail have been commissioned.

"What I particularly like is that the entry ways to the town centre are being made more attractive, through the planting of new trees, artworks and feature lighting. This will provide visitors with a pleasant new welcome to Dudley."

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Coronation Gardens, Dudley, have long been popular with townsfolk. Restoration of the site is underway and work is due to be completed by autumn this year

Group engineer Graham Hodgson, Khurshid Ahmed from Regen, and landscape architect Nigel Cox view plans for the restoration work at Coronation Gardens, Dudley

Gardens are growing in appeal

THE latest piece in the regeneration jigsaw for Dudley has been unveiled – a £1.1million overhaul of the popular Coronation gardens.

Dudley Council announced a major improvement package for the open space as part of a number of ongoing regeneration projects across the town.

The site, which is a top spot for students, office workers and other visitors to the town, is having over one million pounds worth of European Redevelopment Fund (ERDF) money pumped into it, which has been hailed a huge boost for tourism in the town.

Key elements of the proposals have been revealed by the council including an amphitheatre for open air shows, water in the Apollo Fountain for the first time in decades as well as new lighting, paths, trees and seating. The amphitheatre will be available to community groups and the college for open air shows.

Work started at the beginning of June on initial ground works, with the project rolling out over the next few months.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for regeneration, said:

"Coronation Gardens is already popular with students, office workers and passers-by, but this project is about enhancing what we have there and improving it for everyone.

Relax

"I'm very excited about some of the things we are looking to do there including the amphitheatre and the fountain which will make it a great place to relax or for entertainment. By creating something like this we can also give tourism a huge boost by making facilities people want to visit and make use of.

"As a community council we are committed to providing community facilities wherever we can and looking for external funding to finance them wherever possible. We hope people will come from far and wide to perform here and make use of a fantastic public open space."

The work will also include additional seating, lighting in the trees throughout the site as well as new handrails and improvements to the steps.

It is part of the ongoing regeneration work in the town centre including the new market place in the town centre, the 'Porters Field' project and the work at Castle Hill to link the town centre with the Dudley Zoological Gardens, Black Country Living Museum and the Archives building.

The gardens are central to the council's regeneration plans for the town following the influx of students from the new multi-million pound colleges and the anticipated rise in tourists to the area.

The work at Coronation Gardens is expected to be completed by late autumn.

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Fly the flag for the Black Country

RESIDENTS, businesses, schools and even animals are being urged to fly the flag for the area as the countdown to this year's Black Country Day celebrations begins.

The countdown to this year's Black Country Day on July 14 is underway and organisers of the celebrations are calling for people to start flying the flag.

Leading the rally cry is Billy Spakemon, who has penned a Fly the Flag song to encourage people to show off their Black Country colours with pride.

Billy was joined at Dudley Castle by Dudley Council leader, Councillor Pete Lowe and Black Country Festival organisers to help launch the countdown and encourage people to fly the flag.

The flag is flying from landmark locations across Dudley, the self proclaimed capital of the Black Country.

Wonderful

It is flying from Dudley Castle and Dudley Town Hall while animals at Dudley Zoo will also be joining in the fun with Charlie, a blue and gold macaw parrot leading the way by trying to speak the local dialect.

Billy Spakemon, whose real name is Brian Dakin, a writer and performer from Oldbury, said: "It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages celebrating the Black Country at last year's festival and we want to start building the excitement now for an even bigger celebration this year.

"The Fly the Flag song will hopefully help raise awareness and remind people to start flying the Black Country flag with pride this summer."

David Brownhill from Black Country Festival committee and Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council, said: "Now is the time for the countdown to begin for this year's Black Country Festival.

"Last year was such a success that it has given us all the appetite to want to do it even better this time.

"Whether it's from their home, their business, their school or their car, we are looking forward to seeing the flag being flown across the area again this year."

The Black Country flag was designed by Stourbridge schoolgirl Gracie Sheppard.

As well as being flown around the Black Country, the flag was seen flying at Glastonbury, the Tour De France, the football World Cup in Brazil and in Afghanistan last year.

A wide range of community events have already been planned to form part of this year's Black Country Festival in the Dudley borough to ensure it's bigger and better than last year.

Music events, comedy, a beer tour and a 10km run are already confirmed to take place.

For more details on the festival and to order a flag people can visit the website at www.blackcountryfestival.co.uk

Steve Thompson and Janet Parker from Dudley and South Staffs CAMRA with Steve Edwards from the Black Country Festival

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There are some big changes taking place at OCL this summer.

The Kingswinford and Pensnett-based business has long been known for its landscaping services and fencing, but now the company is changing and expanding to become a fully-stocked general builders' merchants too.

There will still be all of the same services and products on offer at both of OCL's sites but the new one-stop-shop builders' merchants will be the main focus.

Procurement Manager, Barry Smith, explains: "We're introducing new products all the time, soon we'll have everything needed on-site to build a complete house from the foundations up."

A great deal of investment has been made in the business, along with an intake of experienced new staff members who've been brought in to manage the new aspect of the company.

"I joined the business recently from Jewson; I've worked in the trade for many years. Ashley Ibbs George, OCL's Managing Director/owner, brought me and Mark Charlton, also a long standing employee from Jewson, into the business to manage everything relating to the builders' merchant aspect of OCL. Ashley recognises that we both have a wealth of experience and knowledge in the building materials industry and this is essential to provide the highest level of customer service"

.It's not just new staff members that have joined the company though, there's also a brand new piece of equipment.

Mark Charlton, Branch Manager, says: "We've got a new 26 tonne crane vehicle that's just joined our fleet of delivery vehicles - which already includes two Tipper Transits and a Hi-ab lorry - it will really improve our delivery scope."

And there's many delivery options available, to suit every client's needs: "If you can't collect, it's no problem for us to deliver - prices start at only £9.95."

In fact all of OCL's customers benefit from competitive pricing, as Mark explains: "There's plenty of advantages as an independent builders' merchants, we're not restricted like national companies to using only one supplier. We can sit down with any manufacturer and work out a deal and then we can pass the savings on to our customers directly."

"We've got the freedom to do things as we want to, which is really important to the business," adds Barry. Each part of the company has its own specialist, to help and advise both domestic and trade clients alike."We've got a separate specialist for each department; landscaping, timber, bricks and blocks etc. Excellent and efficient customer service is really important to us," explains Mark.

OCL's opening hours have been worked out with the customers needs in mind too:

"We're open from 7am until 5pm on weekdays during the winter months, and 7am until 6pm in the summer. We also open on Saturdays between 8am and 4pm."

"It makes a real difference to tradesmen to be able to get the materials they need early in the morning so that they can get on with the job they're working on," adds Barry

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Mayor supports five charities

THE new Mayor of Dudley has boldly pledged to support five charities during his civic year.

Mayor, Councillor Steve Waltho, and Mayoress, Jayne Waltho have chosen to support a different charity in the five main areas of the borough.

Councillor Waltho is no stranger to raising money for good causes and has spent much of his life hiking, running and tackling other extreme pursuits in name of charity.

The charity stalwart has been a councillor for 17 years and has also pledged to raise awareness of volunteering for foster caring as well as the importance of blood and organ donation.

Councillor Steve Waltho, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I'm really excited about the opportunity for raising money for these worthy causes- every little really does help."

Mayor, Councillor Steve Waltho pictured with Mayoress, Jayne Waltho

Follow the Mayor's adventures throughout the year in a number of ways including via Twitter at @DudleyMayor

Charity stalwart – Steve Waltho has been a councillor for 17 years

Values

The first charity chosen, representing Halesowen is The Hope Centre, founded in 2010.

It offers support to those in need including victims of domestic violence, crime and other issues. Based on Andrew Road, The Hope Centre works on the basis of Christian values.

Stourbridge based charity The What? Centre is the second to be supported. With 27 years of experience, they run a service that offers advice, information and therapeutic counselling to young people.

Working near to central Stourbridge town, they aim to provide a high-quality, empowering service to people between the ages of 13-25. More Mascots Please, based in Brierley Hill, strive to make a difference to disabled, disadvantaged and terminally ill children with the help of their mascots.

The Community Interest Company organises and runs as many events as possible for young children with all of their profits returning to the company's budget to help their affected children.

The Georgina Unit in Russells Hall Hospital treats patients suffering from non-melanoma skin cancer and malignant melanoma skin cancer.

As well as a central unit, they run multiple out-patient day centres across the borough, with treatments ranging from blood tests and transfusions to dermatology and radiography.

Finally, representing the community of North Dudley, The West Midlands Lupus Group which is the only nationally registered Lupus charity offering support to sufferers.

Assisting and supporting people who suffer from Systemic Lupus and Discoid Lupus, the charity runs community drop in sessions and advice to the West Midlands.

You can follow the Mayor's adventures throughout the year in a number of ways including via Twitter at @DudleyMayor or the Mayor of Dudley Flickr group www.flickr.com/groups/mayor-of-dudley/

For more information on the charities visit www.dudley.gov.uk/community/councillors/mayor-of-dudley/charities

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Craig Willis and Shakeel Zafar are on course to open The Old Glasshouse next month

How the firestation looked last century

The entrance to the newly-refurbished bistro will be situated off Stone Street Square

Former fire station is blazing a trail

DOORS to a rundown former Dudley fire station are set to open soon after two businessman came to its rescue and transformed it into a stylish new bar and restaurant.

Up to 20 new jobs are being created at The Old Glasshouse, formerly Carvers Cafe, in Priory Street.

The historic building was once home to Dudley's first fire station complete with stables for horses and a former glassworks but has been boarded up and left empty since the 1990s.

Now the old fire station has been taken over by owners Craig Willis and Shakeel Zafar who are on course to open it by the end of July and bring the building back into use thanks to support from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dudley Council.

"I used to walk past this building on the way to school," says 41-year-old Shakeel, "and now we are bringing it back to life."

After years of being in the hospitality industry Shakeel and Craig are hoping their investment in the bistro and bar will be good for the town.

"It is a wonderful old building in a prime spot overlooking Stone Street Square and Dudley Town Hall," says Dudley-born Shakeel, "when people sit and dine in here they will be able to look across the square at some of the town's loveliest old buildings."

Professional chef Craig Willis remembers going into Carvers Cafe when he was a schoolboy "It's great to see the building coming together," says Craig, 42.

"We've exposed some of the original glass cone under the ground which we've covered with a reinforced glass floor so people can get a flavour of the building's history.

Opening

"We are really excited about the next phase and our imminent opening. Once we are up and running we will be offering everything from mid-morning coffee, lunches, afternoon tea and cake as well as evening dining – all with a bistro feel."

The regeneration of the former fire station has seen the reinstatement of a number of key architectural and heritage features.

They include the original fire station frontage and removal of the 1970s shop front and the reconstruction of the fire station doors, creating direct access onto Priory Street.

The site, which is of archaeological significance, was once occupied by Dudley Flint Glass works and constructed around 1770.

Other work includes the rebuilding of a former hose drying tower, reinstatement of windows and doors, stable roof, repairs to brickwork as well as a second storey conversion and extension to accommodate a kitchen, office, toilet facilities, stores and a disabled toilet

The entrance to the newly-refurbished bistro will be situated off Stone Street Square and the businessmen are hoping to put seating outside.

The building dates back to 1898 and remained operational until 1939, when a new police headquarters and fire station were built in Tower Street.

From the 1940s it was used for a variety of purposes, including an RAF club, Payne's Shoe Shop and Carvers Café.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "This is one of a number of regeneration projects in the town centre which is bringing our ambition to improve Dudley to life. People have been watching the building work unfold and I am delighted it will be opening soon."

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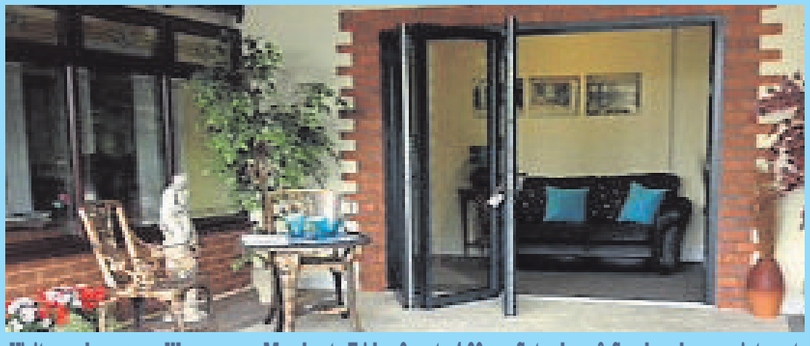
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www.prestigewindowsdudley.co.uk

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

Staying local to go further in life

You don't have to travel far for a high quality education

Study for, or boost, a career in sport at Dudley College

Enrol over the summer months onto a course at Dudley College

IF you are coming to the end of your A levels or college course or if you're working, choosing to continue studying is a great option. It deepens your knowledge, enhances your skills and increases your earning potential over your whole lifetime.

Advancing to an undergraduate course doesn't have to mean leading the uni life, though.

It doesn't mean spending thousands on accommodation or finding your feet (and friends) in a new city.

Many of today's students are choosing to stay local to go higher to boost their career prospects, save on fees, travel and living costs and take on less debt, so they are ready to hit the job market, qualified and experienced, when they graduate.

If you want to achieve a valuable university-level qualification then Dudley College could be perfect for you. It is a cost-effective option for studying a HNC, HND or foundation degree, as you could save thousands, compared to equivalent levels of study at university. You can also continue working part-time, cutting down on the financial worries experienced by many students who move to a different city – plus you can still apply for a low-interest student loan.

Studying

The loans are available to cover HNC, HND and foundation degree tuition fees and help support you with living costs whilst you are studying, so there are no up front costs to stop you enrolling this September.

The qualifications you can achieve at Dudley College are equivalent to those offered by universities and you can top up your studies to degree level on a relevant university programme.

While degrees tend to be knowledge-focused, HNCs, HNDs and foundation degrees directly prepare you for the world of work. With this in mind, the college offers undergraduate qualifications that lead to exciting careers in areas that employers are looking to recruit for.

So if you want to study animal management, business, computing, building information modelling, construction, engineering, fashion and textiles, music production, public services, sport and travel and tourism, Dudley College is the place to be.

Part-time HNC programmes allow you to plan your studies around your existing lifestyle. This is especially valuable if you have children or an existing job.

With quiet study spaces, new technology, social areas, sporting facilities and a dedicated undergraduate area, the new Learning Quarter is an inspiring place to stay local to go higher.

Dudley College will be enrolling onto its undergraduate courses throughout the summer and there will be specialist staff on hand to provide course and finance information right up until the start of the courses in September.

If you'd like to find out more visit the website www.dudleycol.ac.uk or call 01384 363 363.

INVICTUS

Education Trust

Invictus Education Trust is a new way for children to experience the highest quality of education.

We are a tightly knit group of highly successful schools, none of whom is more than a 25 minute drive away from each other. The schools proudly retain their separate identities but also work very closely together to produce the best possible outcomes. It is our declared intention to provide elite experiences for all our students. Indeed we plan to compare ourselves to the very best schools, be they either state or independent.

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We are committed to develop the individual and endeavour to give our students ample and varied opportunities inside and outside of the curriculum to achieve this. We have a culture here at Crestwood of 'anything is possible'.

Our high expectations of ourselves and our students are reflected in the daily life of our school where hard work, effort and achievement are recognised and celebrated.

Mr T Bowles
Headteacher

Kinver High School

Kinver High School is a thriving and successful secondary school with 600 pupils. We have a history of excellence based on our core values of hard work, discipline and high aspirations. We are also a forward-looking school, committed to seeking excellence in the future.

Mr C Rogers
Headteacher

Ellowes Hall Sports College

Our high standards are evident in a number of areas - academic, sporting, artistic, cultural and behaviour. We will never compromise on these high standards - and we will commit ourselves to helping our children to be the best they can be. We are proud of our young people and we are proud of the caring education they receive.

Mr A Jasper
Headteacher

Ounsdale High School

At Ounsdale High School students are at the centre of everything that we do and we aim to give them the self belief to achieve even more than they think is possible. We encourage our students to be ambitious, innovative and empowered young people who are happy and successful and take full advantage of opportunities to shine.

Christine Brown
Principal

Applications to any of the Invictus schools from across the borough are welcome

www.invictus.education

star extra TRAVEL

For brochures please call the Promotions Team on (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Express & Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please note Star Extra Travel is unable to take bookings over the telephone. Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton (with the exception of holidays by air, Eurostar and certain cruises).

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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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- Return flights
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- Services of a tour manager
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Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament

Two days departing Aug 8 and Sept 26

PRICE FROM £139

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Secret Gardens of the Lake District

Four days departing September 18

PRICE FROM £259

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visits to Brockhole Gardens, Holehird Gardens and Grasmere
- Entrance to Windy Hall Gardens
- Cruise on Coniston on Steam Yacht Gondola
- Entrance to Brantwood House and gardens
- Entrance to the gardens at Levens Hall
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Poldark's Cornwall

Four days departing October 2

PRICE FROM £259

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Visit to the Poldark mine for a tour
- Visit to the Smugglers Museum
- Coach journey along the Cornish coast
- Visits to Padstow, Charlestown and Mullion
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

In Search of the Northern Lights

Evening excursion
departing November 9, Feb 2 and 3, 2016

PRICE FROM £199.95

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by an astronomer
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights
- Light refreshments on board
- Services of the astronomers on board
- Services of a tour manager

Please note the Northern Lights are a natural phenomenon which cannot be guaranteed to appear during the flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings

Organised by Omega Holidays (ATOL 6081)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates

PRICE FROM £139.95

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with Dinner.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option starts from £149.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

**The from price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure/web page for details.*

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

York, Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales

Pick of the week

Four days departing October 16

PRICE FROM £209

Yorkshire is the largest county in England and has something to offer everyone, from expansive moors and national parks to floral market towns and thriving cities.

A full day is spent in York where there are a whole host of attractions to enjoy. These include Yorkminster – the largest medieval Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, and which towers over the city. There is also Barley Hall; Cliffords Tower and Fairfax House, to name but a few.

For panoramic views of the area climb the city walls, and for the shoppers there is plenty to choose from as York boats over 2,000 shops, with The Shambles, Petergate and Stonegate amongst the most popular.

During the scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales two visits are made. The first is to Grassington, a lovely village with a cobbled square and beautiful setting above the river Wharfe. The second is to Pateley Bridge, which has been the inspiration for many artists, writers and television producers, due to its stunning location in the heart of Nidderdale.

Visits are also made to Skipton, home to one of the most complete medieval castles in England (entrance payable locally); Harrogate, which is well known for its landscaped gardens and architecture, plus Haworth, a quaint Yorkshire village made up of cobbled streets and alleyways.

INFO

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Full day in York
- Scenic coach tour of the Yorkshire Dales stopping at Grassington and Pateley Bridge
- Visits to Skipton, Harrogate and Haworth
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

fast theticket

It's a beauty

Gary Wilmot in Oklahoma!
Page 33

Whodunnit?

Mousetrap at the Grand
Page 33

NATIVE MONSTER
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For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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15 Aug, 5 Sep, 3, 31 Oct
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11, 25 Jul, 8, 22 Aug, 19 Sep 10, 24 Oct, 14 Nov
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John Legend

Friday, 7.30pm
Barclaycard Arena, B'ham
After an unbelievably successful year that has included a million-plus, platinum selling single, All Of Me, and a worldwide tour, John Legend returns to the UK for more shows.
Visit **www.barclaycardarena.co.uk**

Frank Sinatra Jr

Tuesday, 8pm
Symphony Hall, B'ham
As a part of this year's centennial celebrations, Frank Sinatra Jr will perform a special multimedia concert at Symphony Hall to pay homage to his father – the singer, the man.
Visit **www.thsh.co.uk**

Emma – in the Gardens

Wednesday, 7pm
Shugborough Hall, Stafford
Relax with a picnic on a summer's eve and be transported back to a time when finding the perfect match was the order of the day as Austen's classic, Emma is staged.
Visit **www.shugborough.org.uk**

The Country Show

Sat, Sun, 10am - 5pm
Shugborough Estate, Stafford
Oakleigh Fairs return to Shugborough Estate near Stafford for its fifth year with this favourite family event. All day entertainment includes stunt bikes, The Sheep Show and birds of prey.
Visit **www.shugborough.org.uk**

POP & ROCK

John Legend
Fri at 7.30pm,
Barclaycard Arena,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons
Thu at 6.30pm,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Jilted Generation: The Prodigy Tribute
Sat at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Civic Hall,
WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

GA GA - A Tribute to Queen
Friday at 7.45pm
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

Abbey Road Experience: Wings Over Abbey Road Tribute
Sat at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, Lichfield,
WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Roy Orbison & Friends
Fri at 7.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Bon Jovi Experience
Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre,
Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Tony Visconti & Woody Woodmansey – The Man Who Sold The World
Mon at 7pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

The Food Fighterz : Foo Fighters Tribute
Fri at 7.30pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

The Decades Band
Sat at 7.30pm,
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Big Sean
Mon at 7pm,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

RNB & SOUL

Gladys Knight
Sun at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Irish Music Session
Wed at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Liquor & Poker Band
Sat at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

Kathryn Williams
Wed at 8pm,
Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.
Call 0121 443 4725

Edwina Hayes
Mon at 8pm,
The Crescent Theatre,
Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm,
Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,
Pattingham,
Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.
Call 01902 700207

Common Folk: Singers' Night
Thu at 8.30pm,
Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,
Walsall Road, Walsall,
WS3 4BP. Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club,
Four Ashes Road, Brewood,
ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks,
Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

The Black Feathers / Lewis & Leigh / Paul Mosley
Friday, 7.45pm
The MET Studio
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. 01785 619080

OPEN MICS

Open Mic
Fri at 8pm,
Light House, Fryer Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Open Mic Night
Mon at 12am,
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,
Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Worcestershire Youth Music 2015
Tue at 7pm,
Palace Theatre, Alcester Street,
Redditch, B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Birmingham Dream Cymbals Day
Sun at 6pm - 11pm,
The Glee Club, Birmingham,
B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Frank Sinatra Jnr And Orchestra: Frank Sinatra Tribute
Tue at 8pm,
Symphony Hall, Broad Street,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Schools Concert: Bite-Size Classics
Thu at 11.30am, 1.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Burt Bacharach
Wed at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

You Should Ask Wallace!
Thursday 2nd July, 7.30pm
Stafford Gatehouse,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 619080

Crescent Youth Theatre Summer Showcase 15
Sat at 7pm,
The Crescent Theatre,
Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

A Night At The Movies
Fri at 7.30pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

JJTA Promotions: Just Dance
Sat at 7pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Limits
Sun at 7.30pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

BE Festival 2015: Before/(don't) Trust Me/Quintetto/ Sobrejulieta/Game
Sat at 6.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

BE Festival 2015: Correction/ Mouvma!/the Whistle/Of Miracles And Wonders, Optimistic Conference
Fri at 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Octonauts And The Deep Sea Volcano Adventure
Wed at 1pm, 4.30pm, Thu at 1pm, 4.30pm,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Jane Eyre
Wed at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Botanical Gardens,
Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 3TR. Call 0121 454 1860

The Russell Brand Effect – The Morning After
Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Don't Leave Me Now
Mon at 2pm, 6pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Arabesque School Of Dance Proudly Presents Disney Delights
Sun at 5pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Mousetrap
Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm,
Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Theatre In The Gardens – Emma
Wed at 7pm,
The Shugborough Estate,
Milford, near Stafford,
ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

Oklahoma!
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm,
7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Disney's High School Musical JR
Fri at 7pm - 9pm, Sat at 3pm - 5pm, 7pm - 9pm,
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

Birmingham Royal Ballet: Sylvia
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Birmingham Hippodrome,
B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Dreamboats And Miniskirts
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm,
7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Tom Allen: Life/Style & Carly Smallman: Made In Penge
Fri at 7.45pm - 10pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

EdinBrum Previews: Lucy Porter & Hal Cruttenden
Thu at 7.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

TALKS

Bromsgrove Festival: Taking A Bow (Or A Jump) With Michael Seal: Talk
Wed at 12pm,
Avoncroft Museum of
Historic Buildings, Stoke Heath,
Bromsgrove, B60 4JR.
Call 01527 831363

Nick Baker: Weird Creatures
Fri at 7.30pm,
Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Ranulph Fiennes: A Life At The Limits: Talk
Mon at 7.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall,
B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

FOOD & DRINK

Food Market
Sun at 10.30am - 3.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

FAMILY

Armed Forces Day
Sat at 12am,
Royal Air Force Museum,
Cosford, Shifnal, TF11 8UP.
Call 01902 376200

The Country Show
Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,
The Shugborough Estate,
Milford, Stafford, ST17 0XB.
Call 01889 881388

Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 12-16)
Sat at 11am - 1pm,
The Rose Theatre,
Broadwaters, Kidderminster,
DY10 2RX.
Call 01562 743745

Little Friends Baby and Toddler Group
Fri at 10am - 12pm,
The Museum Of Cannock Chase,
Hednesford, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

Central Youth Theatre: Workshop (Ages 7-12)
Sun at 11am - 1pm,
Newhampton Arts Centre,
Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN.
Call 01902 572090

LOCAL CINEMA

Lambert & Stamp
Fri at 5.50pm, Sat at 8.05pm, Sun at 5.50pm, Mon at 8.15pm, Tue at 2pm, 5.50pm, Wed at 8.15pm, Thu at 5.50pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

The Living Daylights + Licence To Kill
Sun at 2pm,
Vue Cinemas, Birmingham,
B7 5SA.
Call 0871 224 0240

Hope And Glory
Sat at 2pm,
Light House, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HT.
Call 01902 716055

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

People are saying that they're in love

BIRMINGHAM Hippodrome panto favourite Gary Wilmot returns to the city next week as one of the stars of the latest revival of classic American musical Oklahoma!

Song-and-dance man Wilmot, who before becoming a panto dame in Birmingham was leading man in such shows as Me and My Girl and Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, will play 'Persian peddler' Ali Hakim in Rodgers and Hammerstein's foot-stomping musical set on the prairie.

This new production from Northampton's Royal and Derngate is directed by former Birmingham Rep artistic director Rachel Kavanaugh.

The show features new choreography from Birmingham-born Drew McOnie, who also worked with Wilmot on Hippodrome panto Jack and the Beanstalk.

West End star Ashley Day, who has spent the past couple of years in hit London show The Book of Mormon, will stride out onto the stage as handson cowboy hero Curly to belt out Oh What a Beautiful Mornin'.

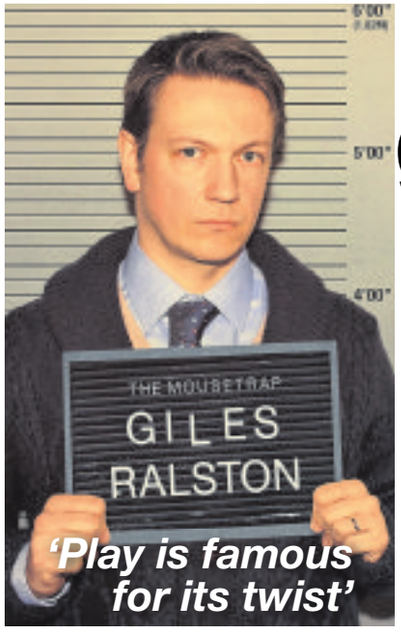
Playing the girl of his dreams, Laurey, is Holby City's Charlotte Wakefield, a soprano who has twice been nominated for Olivier awards, for Spring Awakening in the West End and The Sound Of Music at Regent's Park.

Providing the comic support will by 2point4 Children's Belinda Lang as Aunt Eller and Lucy May Barker, from Spring Awakening and Sweeney Todd as Ado Annie, the girl who just 'cain't say no', whilst the show's famous villain Jud is played by former Phantom of the Opera Nic Greenshields.

From the award-winning producers of The King & I and Fiddler on the Roof, this brand new production features a large chorus as well as a live orchestra, performing the songs Surrey With a Fringe on Top, People Will Say We're in Love and Kansas City.

Oklahoma! is staged from Tuesday to Saturday (June 30-July 4). Tickets are priced £18 to £40 and can be booked on 0844 338 5000 or online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com

Ashley Day and Charlotte Wakefield in Oklahoma! Picture: Pamela Raith



'Play is famous for its twist'

Don't dare give it away

ONE of the best kept secrets in theatreland will be revealed at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when The Mousetrap by Queen of Crime Agatha Christie arrives on tour.

The murder mystery play opened in London's West End in 1952 and has been running continuously ever since, making it the longest running show of any kind in the world.

It actually got its premiere at Nottingham and was staged at Birmingham's Alexandra Theatre on tour before opening at London's Ambassadors Theatre in November 1952. It ran at that theatre until moving next door to the larger St Martin's Theatre in March 1974, where it is still running. Foreign productions have broken records from Sydney to Singapore.

The play, which during its phenomenal 60 year run has featured more than 400 actors, is famous for its twist which audiences are asked not to reveal to anyone else.

The touring production coming to the Grand from Monday to Saturday, June 29 to July 4, features former EastEnders actor Mark Homer as Giles Ralston. Jonathan Sidgwick, from Coronation Street and Hollyoaks, plays Mr Paravicini with Hester Arden as Miss Casewell, Edward Elgood as Christopher Wren, and Esther McAuley as Mollie Ralston

William Ilkley joins from the West End production of The Mousetrap as Major Metcalf alongside Luke Jenkins and Anne Kavanagh who will reprise their roles from the record-breaking 2014 tour as Sergeant Trotter and Mrs Boyle.

Tickets range from £11.50 to £29.50. See www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429 212.

Sinatra Jr leads a tribute to his father

THE son of Ol' Blue Eyes, Frank Sinatra Jr, will by paying tribute to his father at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday to mark the centenary of his birth.

Frank Jr will be accompanied by an orchestra to perform such timeless songs as Strangers in the Night, I've Got You Under My Skin and New York New York. Tickets start at £25 plus fees.

Next Friday (July 3) jazz singer Claire Martin will team up with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra to present a tribute to the late great Ella Fitzgerald. Tickets start at £12.50 plus fees. See www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 345 0600.

Soap stars feature in a twisted thriller

A STAG night prank has terrifying consequences in Dead Simple, an adaptation by Shaun McKenna of Peter James's best-selling crime thriller, staged at the New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, Monday to Saturday, June 29-July 4.

Olivier award nominated director Ian Talbot directs a star-studded cast featuring Tina Hobley from Holby City, ex-EastEnders regular Jamie Lomas, David McKell from Doctors and Emmerdale's Rik Makarem.

Playing Detective Roy Grace will be Gray O'Brien, 2009 British Soap Awards Villain of the Year for playing Tony Gordon in Coronation Street.

Legends of pop have city dates

STARS associated with iconic pop songs are coming to Birmingham next week.

Soul legend Gladys Knight, best known for Midnight Train to Georgia, has sold out her date at Symphony Hall on Sunday. On Wednesday the prestigious venue hosts Burt Bacharach with orchestra. Bacharach has written dozens of hits such as classics Walk On By, Make It Easy on Yourself, I Say a Little Prayer and That's What Friends Are For.

Fabulous falsetto Frankie Valli and the latest incarnation of The Four Seasons bring the sounds of New Jersey to the Genting Arena on July 2.

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Entertainment LIVE! 2015

STOURBRIDGE TOWN HALL

RED LEMON ELECTRIC BLUES BAND
11 SEPT

CORIOLANUS
encore FROM NATIONAL THEATRE
24 SEPT

TREE FU TOM
from CBeebies
1pm 26 SEPT

HAMLET LIVE CINEMA
starring
Benedict Cumberbatch
15 OCT

SID SLOANE
presents
SID'S SHOW
Half Term children's theatre
1pm 27 OCT

RUBY WAX
in SANE NEW WORLD
12 NOV

THE SCARECROWS' WEDDING
children's theatre
1pm 21 NOV

BALLET CYMRU CINDERELLA
5 DECEMBER

DUDLEY TOWN HALL

MILTON JONES & THE TEMPLE OF DAFT
2 OCT

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MUSICAL MATINEE
(2pm) with Duggie Brown
13 OCT

SUPERSLAM WRESTLING
half term
29 OCT

HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS DISCO
(with curry)
31 OCT

BRUMMEGEM PALS
starring
Don Maclean & Malcolm Stent
13 NOV

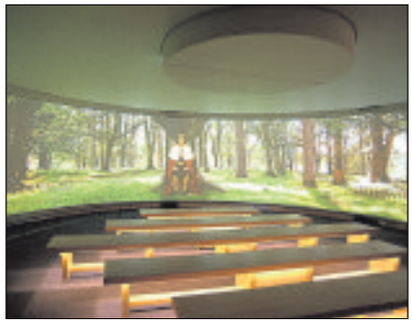
SOUL SURVIVORS
6 FEB -16

HALFWAY TO PARADISE: THE BILLY FURY STORY
18 MARCH -16

Dudley
Box office 0870 320 7000
or 01384 812812
(Booking fees apply)
www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

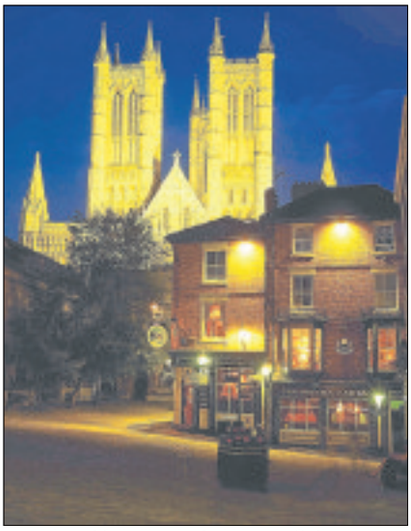
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

The reopening of Lincoln Castle following its transformation



The cinema within the Magna Carta Visitor Centre

Aerial shot of Lincoln Cathedral, with the restored castle above



A beautifully illuminated Lincoln Cathedral

Such a Magna-ficent city with historical Lincs to royal charter

By Paul Naylor

EIGHT centuries after the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in Surrey, there are only four known surviving copies in existence.

Two belong to the British Library and one to Salisbury Cathedral. The fourth, owned by Lincoln Cathedral, is now on permanent display in a new exhibit at Lincoln Castle.

Lincoln is very much at the centre of renewed interest for the document signed in 1215. Translated as The Great Charter, Magna Carta established the principle that everybody, including the king, was subject to the law. Magna Carta remains a cornerstone of the British constitution to this day.

Visitor numbers for Lincoln are on the rise, and not just because of its links to the world famous charter. There is plenty more to the city. My son and I stayed at The White Hart, a traditional hotel with a modern twist and stunning views of both the cathedral and newly restored castle walls.

Our suite was a tasteful combination of both old and new. This is the case throughout the lovely hotel, including the superb Grille restaurant on the ground floor.

Transformed

Following a hearty breakfast we made our way on foot the short distance to the castle. Under the direction of Mary Powell, programme manager of Lincoln Castle Revealed, the historic site has been spectacularly transformed. Visitors can now take part in the Lincoln Castle Wall Walk, aided by an electronic audio guide.

The site is also home to two former prisons, one from the Georgian period, another from the Victorian era. Both provide a fascinating addition to the castle and offer an unusual trip through the centuries.

My son Matthew, who is keen on history, was particularly taken with the Victorian prison chapel and enjoyed dressing as an inmate.

However, it is the Magna Carta Visitor Centre, now home to the famous document, and Charter of the Forest, which is drawing crowds. The visitor centre also includes a 'wall of words' translating the script to modern English and a large curved cinema screen to tell the document's story. Copies of the shields of the 25 barons who were present at the sealing of Magna Carta are displayed too. And the latest attraction is a Saxon sarcophagus discovered on an archaeological dig in the castle grounds containing the 1,000-year-old remains of its occupant.

A highlight for many visiting the city will be its wonderful cathedral, where guide Colin Hill brought the site to life. Building commenced in 1088 and continued in phases throughout the medieval period and was for the best part of 240 years the tallest building in the world.

Visitors can also marvel at the services chapels, one of each dedicated to the Army, RAF and Navy, while for those who enjoy all things relating to military history, a visit to The Museum of Lincolnshire Life is a must.

Venture into the city centre and head for The Fossdyke Canal Trail which runs alongside the Fossdyke Navigation. Walk or cycle towpaths, or relax in style on a water taxi ride from Brayford mooring to the Pyewipe Inn for a tasty meal. Alternatively, take a leisurely cruise on the Brayford Belle. A fabulous way to round off a memorable trip.

LIGHT HOUSE

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CINEMA

Fri 26 June - Thur 2 July	**LONDON ROAD (15) LAMBERT & STAMP (15) POLTERGEIST (15)**
Sat 27 June -	**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND MATINÉE - HOPE & GLORY (15)**
Fri 3 - Thur 9 July	**A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT (15) MR HOLMES (PG)**
Fri 10 - Thur 16 July	**QUEEN & COUNTRY(15) TIMBUKTU (12A) (TO TUES 14TH)**
Mon 13- Thur 16 July	**THE NEW GIRLFRIEND (UNE NOUVELLE AMIE) (15)**
Fri 17- Thur 23 July	**THE WRECKING CREW(PG) DANNY COLLINS (15) RETURN TO SENDER(18)**
Fri 24- Thur 30 July	**AMY(15) THE GOOB(18)**
Sat 25 July	**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND MATINÉE - FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD (12A)**

EVENTS & SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Monday 29 June	**DON'T LEAVE ME NOW** - 2pm & 6pm Live play reading about Dementia (£10)
Sunday 5 July	**THE ROYAL OPERA:** Guillaume Tell £18/£12.50 Screened from The Royal Opera House 2.45pm
Thursday 16 July	**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE:** Everyman £12/£11 7pm
Saturday 18 July	**COMEDY: WHITE YARDIE** plus GUESTS 8pm £15
Sunday 19 July-	**SUMMER JAZZ IN THE COURTYARD.** Hosted by The Carl Hodson Combo, with special guests. Free entry, with donations to the musicians. 4.30pm - 8.30pm
Weds 22 July	**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY:** The Merchant of Venice £14/£12 7pm
Saturday 25 July -	**SWAP, SHOP, SIP & SOCIALISE** 6-8PM
Saturday 25 July -	**WINEHOUSE @ LIGHT HOUSE:** Amy Film plus Northern Soul and Motown Night with DJs and Courtyard Dancefloor. Tickets £10 (Advance)
Thur 30 July	**POSTER SALE** 2pm - 8pm, **FREE COMEDY:** LAUGH HOUSE @ LIGHT HOUSE 8pm

Collect a programme from box office for timings or visit the website www.light-house.co.uk
Regular Events include Vinyl Night- Knit Night - Film & TV Quiz - Language Cafés- Open Mic - Singles - Wellbeing Cafe - Brain Tumour Support - God at Work

CHOICE

George Layton

Casualty (BBC1, 8.55pm)
Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, but seems to be fighting a losing battle with his son, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant. Robyn and Zach finally share a kiss, Dylan's bad day suddenly improves after he mistakenly pockets a 'lucky' talisman, and Zoe and Max fall out over money, with Max choosing to spend a night sleeping in the car after his embarrassment becomes too much for him to bear. Derek Thompson, Gregory Foreman, Suzanne Packer, Amanda Mealing, William Beck and Sunetra Sarker star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leigh Centurions (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.40 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Prized Apart. The eight remaining adventurers are in the ancient city of Fes, Morocco, where they face a shopping trip with a difference in order to avoid tackling the survival challenge. The contestants are split into two teams for their first test, set on the labyrinthine streets and alleyways of the city, with the losing team then having to take a terrifying leap into the darkness of north Africa's largest cave. The lowest-ranked three contestants are then flown back to their studio partners in the UK, who have to answer quiz questions to make it through to the next round. Presented by Emma Willis and Reggie Yates.

8.05 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

8.55 Casualty. Charlie continues his efforts to help Louis manage his heroin withdrawal, while Cal convinces a pushy mum to come clean to her daughter after she fails to reach a beauty pageant.

9.45 The John Bishop Show. The comedian presents an evening of entertainment, recorded at the Hackney Empire theatre in London, including music by Leona Lewis and a stand-up routine by Lee Nelson.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Not Going Out. Lucy aspires to be friends with posh new neighbours Toby and Anna, but has not reckoned on Lee dragging her right back down to earth. Hugh Dennis guest stars. (R)

11.20 Room 101 – Extra Storage. (R)

12.00 Film: The Hot Chick. (2002) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.10 Film: The Lost Squadron. (1932) **7.30 Film:** East of Sudan. (1964) **9.00** Wimbledon Classics. **11.00** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **11.30** Kangaroo Dundee. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.15** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **1.15** Tennis from Eastbourne. The AEGON International final. **4.00** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Glastonbury 2015.

6.00 Gardeners' World. (R)

6.30 Edwardian Farm. In January, the trio struggle to keep afloat during the harsh winter as Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn work in a tin mine in Cornwall. (R)

7.30 Japan: Earth's Enchanted Islands. The documentary examining the wildlife of the east Asian country focuses on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island and a place totally unlike the rest of the country. Every year it swings from a bitter Siberian winter into the warmth of a Mediterranean-like summer, with the thaw revealing a landscape changed beyond all recognition. It takes hardy animals and tough people with real ingenuity to survive in this ever-changing place. Last in the series. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. An invasion alert throws Mainwaring's hopeless would-be heroes into a panic, leading one half of the platoon to launch an attack on the other. (R)

9.00 Mock the Week. Ed Byrne, Sara Pascoe, James Acaster and Gary Delaney join host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons for the topical comedy quiz show. (R)

9.30 Glastonbury 2015. Mark Radcliffe and Gemma Cairney present further coverage from Worthy Farm, including highlights of soul and R&B star Pharrell Williams' set and the headline performance by rapper Kanye West on the Pyramid Stage. Jo Whiley and Huw Stephens then take over hosting duties to bring a selection of acts from the second day at Glastonbury, including music from The Mothership Returns with George Clinton, Parliament, Funkadelic & the Family Stone, as well as a peek at the late-night high jinks that go on under the cover of darkness, and acoustic performances in the studio.

1.00 Film: The Infidel. (2010) **2.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Super 4. (R) **8.00** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.10** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.35** 1000 Heartbeats. (R) **3.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.20 Film:** Scooby-Doo. (2002)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.10 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps, as Mick Jagger's son attempts to backflip off his dad's lower lip, and Caroline Flack goes up in flames at a fracking party. (R)

7.00 Film: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard struggles to convince his fellow sorcerers that the evil Lord Voldemort has returned to life. When Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore is ousted in favour of a sadistic replacement, Harry realises he must take matters into his own hands, uniting his fellow pupils to form a secret army and training them for the inevitable confrontation to come. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Gary Oldman, Michael Gambon and Alan Rickman.

9.40 Black Work. Detective drama, starring Sheridan Smith as a police officer investigating her husband's murder behind her colleagues' backs, a search that places her family in danger. (R)

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

10.55 FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. Highlights of the opening race of the weekend, which served as the 10th round of the season, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London.

11.55 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.20** The Simpsons. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.25** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day of the dinner party contest in Derby and the turn of confident triathlete David Morris to host, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Walking Through History. Tony Robinson sets off on a 45-mile hike through the countryside of the Weald in Kent and the Downs of East Sussex to discover the area's rich and surprising Tudor heritage. At Penshurst Place, author Philippa Gregory helps him relish the fate of the Grand Duke of Buckingham at the hands of the young Henry VIII. From there, he travels up what used to be secret paths to Hever Castle and finds out how the monarch's reign brought not only huge social, political and industrial change, but also fame and disaster to the women who caught his eye He ends this leg of his journey in Lewes, where he relives one of the more brutal monastic dissolutions. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. The actress travels to north-west England and north Wales, where she explores a Victorian garden in the shadow of a nuclear power plant, and finds out about tourism in Snowdonia.

9.00 Film: Taken 2. (2012) Premiere. Former CIA agent Bryan Mills and his ex-wife Lenore are taken hostage in Istanbul by an Albanian gangster, whose son Bryan killed while bringing down a kidnapping ring. He is able to escape with the aid of his daughter, and together they fight to rescue Lenore and wipe out the criminal family. Action thriller sequel, starring Liam Neeson.

10.55 Film: Babylon AD. (2008)

12.40 Street Sound and Style. (R) **1.05** The Last Leg. (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. (R) **4.25** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** Access. **10.50** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **11.45** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.50 Film:** Columbo: Playback. (1975) Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **2.20 Film:** The Green Berets. (1968) Vietnam War adventure, starring John Wayne. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10** GPs: Behind Closed Doors. (R)

6.10 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. Documentary highlighting alarming tales from all sides of the buy-to-let system, beginning with a letting agent who turned out to be a fraudster. (R)

7.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High Court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve and Ben Pinner face their biggest eviction yet – taking on squatters in a large central London office block. With the help of the police, they try to remove a suspected group of 70 from the building, but with a barricade in place, the team faces a challenging operation ahead. Elsewhere, officers are confronted by an army of family and friends when they attempt to enforce a writ at the property of a debtor, and face a difficult eviction at the north London home of a heavily pregnant tenant and her family, after the council fails to pay the rent to the landlord. (R)

8.00 Celebs on Benefits: Fame to Claim. Documentary following former Corrie star Bruce Jones (Les Battersby) and one-time Big Brother contestant Lisa Appleton, who have gone from signing autographs to signing on the dole. (R)

9.00 Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat.

10.00 The 80s: The Best of Bad TV. A look back at memorable TV highlights from the 1980s, focusing on the best and worst that the decade had to offer.

11.30 Jackass. Johnny Knoxville and his friends present more crazy stunts and wind-ups, including Johnny and the Alligator, Blind Driver, Pontius Skating and Jockstrap Roller. (R)

11.55 Access. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. (R) **4.00** Person of Interest. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 George Ezra and Clean Bandit @ Glastonbury **8.00** Years & Years and the Maccabees @ Glastonbury **8.50** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 9.00pm). **11.00** Ben Howard and Deadmau5 @ Glastonbury **12.15** Match of the Day Live: Women's World Cup. **2.25** Booze, Bar Crawls and Bulgaria: Stacey Dooley Investigates **3.25** Parents' Evening **3.50** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Burt Bacharach @ Glastonbury **8.00** Paloma Faith @ Glastonbury **9.00** Cordon **10.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **12.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **12.40** Brothers in Arms **1.40** Definitely Dusty **2.40** Suede @ Glastonbury **4.00** Close

ITV2
2.10 Film: Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.05** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **4.35** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.05** Minion Madness **6.20 Film:** A Cinderella Story (2004) **8.10 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **10.00** Love Island **11.00 Film:** Bachelorette (2012) **12.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.45** Love Island **2.35** Teleshopping

ITV3
8.00 Foyle's War **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Judge Judy **1.50** Man About the House **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.30 Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** Counting Cars **1.45** Goals of the 80s **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. **5.30** Storage Wars: New York **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.30** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.30 Film:** The Wicker Man (1973) **1.20** The Professionals **2.20** Nitro Circus **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.00 Baby Daddy **12.00** The Goldbergs **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** Made in Chelsea **4.00 Film:** The Addams Family (1991) **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Friends with Benefits (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **1.15** 2 Broke Girls **1.50** Rules of Engagement **2.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.15** Make It or Break It

Film4
11.00 Written on the Wind (1956) **1.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **2.55** True Grit (1969) **5.40** Avatar (2009) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.15** Super (2010) **1.05** The Squad (2011) **3.20** Close

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CHOICE

Anna Friel

Odyssey (BBC2, 9.15pm)
New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel, Peter Facinelli, Jake Robinson and Jim True-Frost.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Prized Apart. (R) **2.20** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **2.50** Flog It! (R) **3.25** Escape to the Continent. (R) **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **5.30** Nature's Greatest Dancers. New series. Steve Backshall presents footage of animals dancing set to music.

6.30 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. John Craven visits Dartmoor to investigate its working history, visiting a project to restore old watercourses that powered the mining industry, meeting a farmer who has diversified into forestry and making camping pods, and talking to photographer Chris Chapman and folk musician Jim Causley about the area's history. Plus, a compilation of the show's best features on working landscapes, featuring clay quarries, rare horses and an underground amusement park. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

9.00 Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell. England is plunged into chaos as ancient magical forces are unleashed on the world and the dark prophecy of the Raven King looks to be fulfilled. Norrell flees to the safety of his library, but is pursued by Strange, who intends to free Arabella before the Gentleman's curse consumes him. Childermass tries to find a way to break the enchantment on Lady Pole, as Stephen is drawn deeper into the sinister world of the Fairy kingdom. Conclusion of the fantasy drama starring Bertie Carvel and Eddie Marsan. Last in the series.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 A David Attenborough Special.

11.05 Don't Tell the Bride. The popular BBC Three wedding planning series makes the jump to BBC One, and with the move comes an increased budget. (R)

12.05 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Animal Park. (R) **6.35** The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) **7.35** Countryfile. (R) **8.35** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.35** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.05** The Box. (R) **11.35** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **12.35** Wimbledon Review 2014. **1.35 Film:** From Here to Eternity. (1953) Second World War drama, starring Burt Lancaster. **3.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens v Widnes Vikings (Kick-off 4.00pm).

6.15 Glastonbury 2015. Lauren Laverne, Mark Radcliffe and Jo Whiley present coverage of Sunday afternoon's performances at the festival, including Lionel Richie on the Pyramid Stage in this year's Sunday Afternoon Legends spot. Plus, performances by Patti Smith, Future Islands and Hozier, an acoustic set by Malian desert blues group Songhoy Blues and Gemma Cairney's latest report on the unseen areas of the festival.

8.00 Top Gear. Compilation of two features from the most recent series. The presenters immerse themselves in the world of classic cars, with Jeremy Clarkson in a Fiat 124 Spider, Richard Hammond in an MGB GT and James May in a Peugeot 304 Cabriolet. They also enter the world of the sports utility vehicle as they find out what sort of SUV can be bought for just a few hundred pounds before putting them through a series of challenges.

9.15 Odyssey. New series. Double bill. During a mission with her US army special ops team in Mali, North Africa, Sgt Odelle Ballard stumbles upon encrypted files that prove a major American corporation is secretly funding terrorists and copies it onto a flash drive. She is then the sole survivor of an attack on her unit and must make the grueling journey back home. Back in the US, business Investigator Pete Decker uncovers corruption in the private sector, and G8 protest organizer Harrison Walters begins to suspect a government cover-up. Thriller, starring Anna Friel and Peter Facinelli.

10.40 Glastonbury 2015.

1.00 Film: Treacle Jr. (2010) **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** Live FIA Formula E Championship. **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Long Lost Family. (R) **2.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **3.00** Live FIA Formula E Championship. The second race of the London ePrix. **5.45** Love Your Garden. (R)

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 ITV News; Weather.

7.15 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 Surprise Surprise. Holly Willoughby makes more dreams come true for unsuspecting members of the public. An unsuspecting mother is flown to the studio by helicopter, a family that was divided by a devastating illness is reunited, and a ballroom dancing class in Blackpool is taken over by street dance group Diversity, who have a surprise in store for one of the members.

9.00 Black Work. A suspect is taken into custody for Ryan's murder, but Jo is not convinced the police have the guilty party. She continues to investigate her husband's undercover work, discovering dark secrets relating to both his colleagues and the criminals they were pursuing, and finally coming to a disturbing revelation about the man she married.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 FIA Formula E Championship. The London ePrix. Highlights of the second race of the weekend, which served as the 11th and final round of the campaign, and was staged at Battersea Park Street Circuit in London.

11.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. The celebrities navigate their way through dense jungle down a ravine, before eating live scorpions and facing their first big test – a descent of a 120ft waterfall. (R)

12.20 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** Ginetta GT5 Challenge. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30 Film:** Edward Scissorhands. (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Kevin McCloud's Escape to the Wild. Kevin travels to Central America to meet British family-of-five the Atkinsons, who have quit London to live a simpler existence in the rainforests of Belize. As he attempts to understand their motivations for the move, he suffers from the heat, is attacked by swarms of biting insects and shares his mud hut with a large scorpion, but begins to appreciate the rewards of a simple jungle life, one in which they've constructed a two-storey building entirely from recycled rubbish. (R)

8.00 Amazing Spaces Shed of the Year 2015. George Clarke and the judges visit the nominees in the Unique Sheds category, which include a Japanese-style treehouse, a shed built in a tree 16 metres in the air, a gothic folly and the smallest shed in the competition, which forms part of a model railway. They also examine the entries for best historical shed, including an Anglo-Saxon dwelling, a 1950s diner, a writing hut that once belonged to George Bernard Shaw and a corrugated cottage from the Second World War.

9.00 Humans. Laura tries to get rid of Anita, but is forced to reconsider when the synth saves Toby's life. Pete and Karen investigate a murder, and George plans to escape his joyless routine.

10.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day. (2012) A man searching for his kidnapped family is caught in the middle of a conflict between rival intelligence agents. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver.

11.55 Rude Tube. (R)

12.50 Film: Blue Valentine. (2010) **2.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** The Renovation Game. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.35** The Secret Life of Pets. (R) **11.05** Stop! Police Interceptors. (R) **12.05 Film:** The Land Before Time. (1988) Animated adventure, with the voice of Gabriel Damon. **1.20 Film:** The Princess Bride. (1987) Comic fantasy adventure, starring Cary Elwes. **3.15 Film:** Spies Like Us. (1985) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd. **5.05** 5 News Weekend. **5.10 Film:** Beetlejuice. (1988) Tim Burton's supernatural comedy, starring Michael Keaton.

6.55 Film: Dirty Dancing. (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort hotel fears his career will be jeopardised when his regular partner is forced to pull out of an important show in which they are due to perform. Luckily, a naive teenager is happy to step in, and is treated to a whirlwind holiday education in life, love and expressing herself. Romantic drama, starring Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey and Jerry Orbach. Edited for violence, language and sexual content.

9.00 Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. (R)

12.50 Jackass. Johnny Knoxville tries his hand at sumo wrestling. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10** Big Brother: Back to the 80s. Daily round-up of highlights. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00** Alt-J & Charli XCX @ Glastonbury **9.00** Lianne La Havas & Jamie T @ Glastonbury **10.30** The Chemical Brothers @ Glastonbury **11.30** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** Family Guy **1.55** Freshers, Sex and Suspicious Parents **2.45** Don't Tell the Bride **3.40** Great Movie Mistakes V: Revenge of the Fifth **3.55** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **8.00** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **9.00** Pappano's Classic Voices **10.00** Arena: Nicolas Roeg – It's About Time **11.00 Film:** Walkabout (1971) **12.40** Irish Rock at the BBC **1.35** Paul Weller @ Glastonbury **2.35** Horizon: The Power of the Placebo **3.35** Close

ITV2
12.00 Catchphrase **12.40** Take Me Out **1.50** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.35** Love Island **3.35** Minion Madness **3.50 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.45 Film:** The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) **9.00** Love Island **10.00 Film:** The Break-Up (2006) **12.15** Crazy Beaches **12.40** Love Island **1.40** Fake Reaction **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
9.00 Caroline Quentin's National Parks **10.00 Film:** Wimbledon (2004) **12.00** Wycliffe **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** Judge Judy **2.45** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4
11.00 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. **6.15** World Series of Darts: Yokohama **11.15 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **1.25** River Monsters **2.30** Movies Now **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.00 Film:** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **7.45** Rude(ish) Tube Short **8.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** Gogglebox **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **12.35** Tattoo Fixers **1.40** Tattoos After Dark **2.35** My Mad Fat Diary **3.30** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Arabian Adventure (1979) **1.00** Big (1988) **3.15** The Towering Inferno (1974) **6.35** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** The Mechanic (2011) Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster. **10.45** The Bank Job (2008) **12.55** Only Yesterday (1991) **3.30** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
King of Texas, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An ageing cattle baron chooses to divide up his empire between his three daughters. His actions set in motion a deadly feud between the sisters that threatens to destroy the business the old man has worked his whole life to build. Western inspired by Shakespeare's King Lear, starring Patrick Stewart, Marcia Gay Harden and Lauren Holly. (2002)

TUESDAY
Surviving Summer, BBC1, 11.55pm
A troubled teenager who witnessed her father's suicide spends a summer living with her grandparents and working as a waitress. She falls in love with the restaurant's ambitious cook, but her grandparents do not approve of him, as he has a criminal past. Drama, starring Hilary Duff. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
Sub Zero, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A weapon of mass destruction is stolen from the US government and lost at the top of the world's second-highest mountain. A team of crack climbers is sent to disarm and retrieve the device before Russian terrorists get to it first – but the enemy may have already infiltrated their expedition. Action adventure, starring Costas Mandylor and Linden Ashby. (2005)

The Hitcher, Friday, ITV, 11.10pm

THURSDAY
NYC: Tornado Terror, Channel 5, 3.15pm
New York's deputy mayor receives a warning from his estranged meteorologist wife that the city is about to be hit by a massive tornado, but convincing the residents of the scale of the impending danger proves an uphill struggle. Disaster thriller, starring Nicole de Boer, Sebastian Spence, Colby Johannson and Jerry Wasserman. (2008)

FRIDAY
The Hitcher, ITV, 11.10pm
A couple offer a hitch-hiker a lift, only to discover that he is a cold-blooded killer. The pair manage to escape his clutches and continue on their journey, but it quickly becomes apparent that their former passenger is framing them for a series of gory roadside slayings. Horror remake, starring Sean Bean. (2007)

A trip down memory lane with some old favourites

The 1980s was a turbulent decade all over the world, but especially here in the UK, from riots and football hooliganism, to a royal wedding celebrated by the entire nation, and big hair accompanying shoulder pads.

It was also a period of massive change in the TV world.

Although it was the decade of the VCR, many people didn't make plans if there was a big TV show listed in their magazine that night.

And Channel 5 is dedicating some of this weekend to the 1980s and it's best (and worst) TV shows and films.

It all kicks-off at 9.00pm tonight with a visit to the Big Brother house, where the housemates will be taking part in all manner of 80s-themed challenges, which will probably involve a bit of fancy dress, role-playing and 80s-themed rewards and punishment.

Then nostalgic retrospective The 80s: The Best of Bad TV takes a look back at some of the so-bad-they-were good programmes we were watching during a decade that was marked by excess.

It was a golden age for sitcoms both in the UK and across the Pond.

Over here, Peckham comedy Only Fools and Horses, student digs sitcom The Young Ones, and historical romp Black Adder were pulling in the viewers, while in the States Robin Williams vehicle Mork & Mindy, Boston bar ratings winner Cheers, and the most watched television show in the United States in 1989, Roseanne, were all hits.

There were also a number a big, silly action adventures where the good guys always won, none more so than David Hasselhoff show Knight Rider, those Good Ol' Boys The Dukes of Hazzard and, of course, Hannibal, Face, Murdoch and BA, aka The A-Team.

Sci-fi and mystery also had a resurgence in the decade with lizard people soap opera V, influential drama The Twilight Zone, the time-hopping Quantum Leap, and Starship Enterprise reboot Star Trek: The Next Generation all boldly going where no shows had gone before.

However, the detective/police procedural drama was arguably the genre which has the largest resurgence boom, especially over the Atlantic.

Crockett and Tubbs were coolness personified in the visually stunning Miami Vice, while female buddy cop show Cagney & Lacey and Tom Selleck's breakthrough role as Magnum, P.I. were massive worldwide smashes.

Finally who can forget the undisputed king of all prime-time soaps, oil tycoon melodrama Dallas?

It is even said that the Queen Mother was among the 83 million people worldwide who tuned in to watch the episode, titled A House Divided, which become better known as Who Shot JR?

After that fun rundown on Saturday night, Sunday's scheduling sees hit films from the decade – The Land Before Time, The Princess Bride, Spies Like Us, Beetle Juice and Dirty Dancing all get an airing, before a further trip to the BB house and another chance to see the epic countdown show Greatest 80s Movies, narrated by Ronni Ancona.

The 80s: The Best of Bad TV, Saturday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Superfoods: The Real Story
Channel 4, 8.30pm
According to the old saying, you are what you eat. So, could we all eat smarter? Probably. And doing so may help prolong our lives. Every so often, scientists reveal something new about the food we consume, revealing the items that have previously unknown health benefits. Sadly, none of them ever seem to be burgers or chips. This new series, fronted by Kate Quilton, focuses on the so-called superfoods, and asks whether they really are the nutrition miracles we've been led to believe. She begins by investigating the idea that eating grapefruit can help fight fat, and whether kale is good for eyes. Kate also looks at sugar substitute xylitol, and finds out if it could be good for teeth, as has been claimed.

TUESDAY
The 7/7 Bombing: Survivors' Stories
ITV, 9pm
For those who witnessed the atrocity or were caught up in it themselves, it probably seems like a short time since four British-born suicide bombers launched an attack on London's transport system. More than 750 people were injured that day, and a further 52 killed during the deadliest attack on the capital since the infamous Blitz of the Second World War. However, it was 10 years ago next week, and as a result, our TV schedules are sure to be dominated by documentaries about the terrifying event soon. First off the mark is this programme, which hears from survivors, victims, their relatives and rescuers as they relate their often remarkable stories. Actor Mark Strong provides the narration.

WEDNESDAY
Long Lost Family
ITV, 9pm
Davina McCall enlists the aid of a specialist intermediary to help Elizabeth Wells and her daughter Janice track down Paul, the second-born child Elizabeth put up for adoption 50 years earlier when it became clear she would not be able to support both her children as a single mother. She also offers expert assistance to Tracey Collins, who discovered at the age of 17 that she has an older brother, Thomas, who her parents felt ill-prepared to raise when he was born, due to the fact that they lacked work and were unmarried. After suffering a stroke, Tracey's father had vowed to help her find his estranged son, but died before he was able to share crucial information about his location. Now, Tracey seeks guidance from Nicky Campbell in tracking Thomas down.

Long Lost Family, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Britain Beneath Your Feet
BBC1, 8pm
According to Dallas Campbell we can only truly understand the familiar world around us by discovering the hidden wonders beneath our feet. In this two-part documentary, computer graphics are used to strip away the earth and lay bare this secret world of hidden rivers, mines, power stations, iconic buildings and amazing wildlife. Campbell finds out how the Shard of London – the tallest skyscraper in Western Europe – stays standing on soft clay, and reveals the genius underwater engineering that allowed the Forth Rail Bridge to be constructed in the 19th century. Along the way, the presenter also meets many of the people who help keep Britain running from underground, including the men who drive the largest tunnelling machines in the world, and those who dislodge 'fatbergs' that block the sewers beneath London.

FRIDAY
Conspiracy: The Lord Lucan Dossier
Channel 5, 8pm
The case of John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, who vanished in November 1974, has baffled experts and captured the imagination of many for years. His disappearance coincided with the murder of his children's nanny Sandra Rivett, as well as an attack on his wife, Veronica. Lucan was never caught or tried for the crime, but in the four decades since he fled numerous sightings have been reported of him from around the world. Some people believe he escaped justice, while others think he too was later murdered. Other cases featured in this gossip-mongering but undoubtedly fascinating documentary involve the kidnapping and murder of aviator Charles Lindbergh's baby son in 1927 and that of US union leader Jimmy Hoffa, who went missing in 1975.

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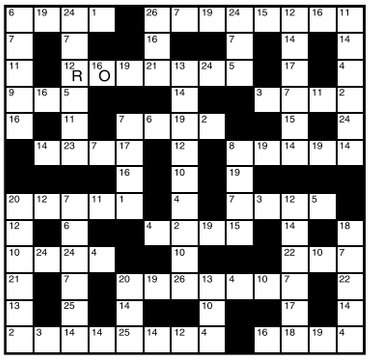
BRAIN GYM No.331

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



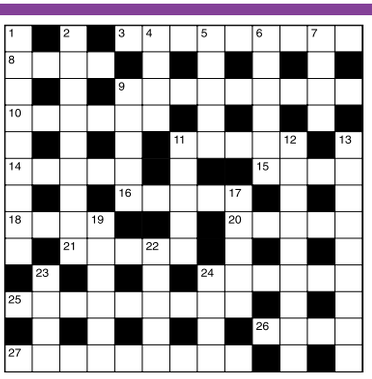
1	14
2	15
3	16 O
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 R	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
X	Q	U	O	D	Y	C	M	B	S	W	P	G
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	H	V	F	T	J	Z	R	E	N	L	A	I

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. He demonstrates against professional examiner (9)
8 & 21Ac. Inferior fish, we hear, for those who attract pity (4,5)
9. Friend has a place for a meal that's tasty (9)
10. Make an allusion about Eastern drug container (6)
11. In truth, a remarkable collection of females (5)
14. Sportsman who takes a shocking risk about the top of the Eiger! (5)
15. Not the kind of reception in which one is cold-shouldered? (4)
16. Disorganised danse in the Ardennes (5)
18. See 23 Down
20. The girl is one in love, maybe (5)
21. See 8 Across
24. Insult fifty within visual range (6)
25. Occupied a position, as it happened (4,5)
26. The sort of repairer to improve your understanding (4)
27. They are inclined to spoil a grand site (9)

Down

1. See 12 Down
2. Do cinemas confuse the wits? (9)
4. Foster will show a position at the back (4)
5. It is put up by an artist as fine headgear (5)
6. We will get involved with the same bird (3-3)
7. They are likely to slip from the creel sometimes (4)
9. Looks closely at those with a House of their own (5)
11. Doesn't reveal the skins (5)
12 & 1Dn. What's the blacksmith doing? Creating a disturbance (6,3,6,3)
13. It's seamen in disorder who will get pardons (9)
17. Old coin that is not common (5)
19. Cut off, but reached port (6)
22. I will shortly be in the French town (5)
23 & 18Ac. Heath to secure the boat and step ashore (8)
24. Commanding officer seen in the street may be a Highlander (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

3. Slept (9)
8. Noose (4)
9. Manufacture (9)
10. Source (6)
11. Abyss (5)
14. Wrong (5)
15. Rescue (4)
16. Shin-bone (5)
18. Quote (4)
20. Scope (5)
21. Give off (5)
24. Guide (6)
25. Clever (9)
26. Prepare for press (4)
27. Fruitfulness (9)

Down

1. Concession (9)
2. Probationer (9)
4. Thin (4)
5. Military tune (5)
6. Surplus (6)
7. Consumes (4)
9. Prime (5)
11. Wire (5)
12. Size (9)
13. Profane (9)
17. The Ram (5)
19. Look for (6)
22. Training (5)
23. Formerly (4)
24. Has to (4)

Sudoku

		2			9			
	7		3	5				4
4					6	1	5	9
		8	6					3
	4	5			7	2	1	
2				3		9		
9	6	4	2				8	
5				9	8			
			4			7		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	1	8	6	3	4	5	2
6	3	4	1	5	2	9	7	8
8	5	2	9	7	4	1	3	6
9	6	7	3	8	5	2	1	4
5	1	8	4	2	7	6	9	3
4	2	3	6	9	1	5	8	7
2	8	9	5	3	6	7	4	1
3	4	6	7	1	9	8	2	5
1	7	5	2	4	8	3	6	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Fate; 3 Base-line; 8 Ride; 9 Suppress; 11 Isolated case; 13 Rising; 14 Parson; 17 Joint account; 20 Peasants; 21 Sten; 22 Disallow; 23 Here. Down: 1 Furriers; 2 Tedious; 4 Amused; 5 Expectancy; 6 Ideas; 7 Erse; 10 Cannonball; 12 Instance; 15 Scuttle; 16 Castro; 18 Opals; 19 Aped. QUICK - Across: 1 Duly; 3 Advanced; 8 Send; 9 Studious; 11 Introductory; 13 Escape; 14 Fought; 17 Regeneration; 20 Inedible; 21 Gala; 22 Detonate; 23 Lead. Down: 1 Despised; 2 Lunatic; 4 Detour; 5 Additional; 6 Choir; 7 Dusk; 10 Completion; 12 Standard; 15 Grimace; 16 Pellet; 18 Eject; 19 Wild.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Who won the 1964 Nobel peace prize?
2. Which 'pop' artist do you associate with Campbell's soup cans?
3. On which river does Washington DC stand?
4. Which zodiac sign straddles December and January?
5. What were the christian names of H.G. Wells?
6. Who was the Roman god of war?
7. Which country's flag is a yellow cross on a blue background?
8. In which country was the schilling a monetary unit?
9. What is the collective noun used to describe a group of crows?
10. In which year did the Japanese attack a US fleet in Pearl Harbor?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lemuel; 2 1959; 3 Photography; 4 Albania; 5 Ray Milland; 6 Alaska; 7 1642; 8 1920; 9 Argentina; 10 Walking pace.

Niner: SEAWORTHY

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

347 gives an animal,
5461 gives insects,
62398 gives another animal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

GET CUSTOMERS MOVING ADVERTISE

Advertisements in local newspapers and websites are the most popular way of keeping an eye on the property market

SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

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Express & Star

1920s property would be ideal for a growing family

A 1927 residence in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, retaining a number of its original features, it on sale through Your Move for offers over £300,000.

The property has a generous entrance hall with tiled flooring and a stained glass window. The ground floor has a cloakroom/WC, cellarette, dining room, lounge, kitchen fitted with a fridge/freezer, double oven and dishwasher.

The first floor has a spacious landing leading to two double bedrooms, a box room and a family bathroom. The rear of the property has a generous garden, comprising a patio area, decking area and lawn area. There is also brick built shed, garden toilet and a walkway in between the house and the garage.

The front of the property has a detached garage and plenty of room to park vehicles.

For more information call 0121 3960482 or visit www.rightmove.co.uk

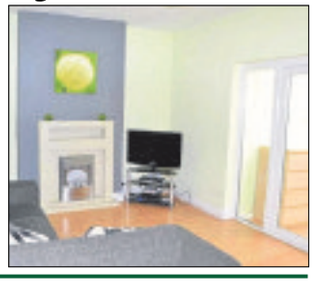
Three-bedroom semi near Warley Woods

THIS traditional style three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Wilson Road, Oldbury lies close to Warley Woods.

It is for sale through Derek Spires at £164,950 with no chain.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, entrance hall with laminate flooring, kitchen with modern light-wood effect units and quarry tiled flooring, a lounge with an electric fire, laminate flooring and French doors to the garden, a conservatory with laminate flooring, utility, three bedrooms and a fully tiled bathroom, a garden with decking, lawn and a shed.

Contact Derek Spires on 0121 4204646 or visit website www.derekspiresandco.com



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13 Bramford Drive, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £49,000-£54,000

Former Neighbourhood Premises, Tipton
In Need Of Extensive Refurbishment or Redevelopment, Subject To Planning
Guide: £75,000-£80,000

1 South Oval, Dudley
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £68,000-£73,000

Land Adj. 115 Park Lane East, Tipton
Development Opportunity with Planning Permission for Two Detached Dwellings
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the property professionals

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Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

TIPTON, Woodcroft Avenue

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached upon WIDE PLOT at head of cul de sac in favoured district comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, store, 18'8" through lounge, dining room, wet/'cellarette', large 17' breakfast kitchen and further utility room.Three bedrooms, shower room (former bathroom). Large double garage, extensive gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £250,000

WORDSLEY, Kensington Gardens

This ARCHITECT DESIGNED, RECENTLY BUILT DETACHED HOUSE enjoys GARDENS AND WOODLAND offering: Hall, Cloaks/Toilet, LARGE LOUNGE, DINING ROOM with KITCHEN/appliances, Three Bedrooms, 'Designer' Bathroom and Gas C/H, UPVC D/G. Extensive Drive/parking and landscaped gardens. EPC C

New price

£249,950

WORDSLEY, Brierley Hill Road

A VERY INDIVIDUAL, DISTINCTIVE AND SUBSTANTIAL DETACHED DOUBLE FRONTED DORMER BUNGALOW within this established address, offering an exceptionally large THREE BEDROOM layout which, although requiring updating, provides SUPERB POTENTIAL. With a large frontage including a DRIVEWAY with approach to the GARAGE and enjoying a level, southerly facing rear garden which forms a natural sun trap. EPC D

New price

Offers in the Region Of £229,950

LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent

RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED! THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM detached by David Wilson Homes with panoramic distant views. Stylish gas centrally heated, double glazed accommodation provides hall, cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (with en-suite to principal bedroom), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £212,000

WALL HEATH, Brook Street

JUST RE DECORATED and RE CARPETED - A DECEPTIVELY LARGE, DETACHED HOUSE upon the fringes of countryside offering a generous layout including Hall, WC, huge lounge, dining room, kitchen, TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS and luxury shower room. DRIVEWAY, CARPORT, GARAGE and SUNNY GARDEN. EPC D

£189,950

KINGSWINFORD, Ibis Gardens

This EXTENDED, SPACIOUS DETATCHED FAMILY HOUSE in a small close within 'Sandpipers' offers Hall, HUGE LOUNGE with Dining area off, Kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, En Suite, Bathroom, D/Glazing and Gas C/H. Lawn/ Drive, Garage and Patio/Garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£189,950

New

NETHERTON, Hockley Lane

Situated within this admired address, this SEMI DETACHED HOME provides a great opportunity to create a lovely family property. Comprises: porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, guest WC, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, rear garden. EPC

£164,950

COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

A 'refreshed' freehold, gas centrally and uPVC double glazed detached bungalow conveniently situated in 'quiet backwater'. Accommodation: entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, LARGE CONSERVATORY, two bedrooms, shower room, extensive parking, brick garage, good size secluded garden. EPC. D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £159,995

LOWER GORNAL, Straits Road

IMMEDIATE WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE!, a conscientiously maintained, significantly improved, Freehold, gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising; reception hall, fitted cloakroom, 17 ft living/dining room, upgraded kitchen, outer porch, Garage (utilised as additional living room). Three generous bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet. Block paved driveway, ample gardens. EPC. D SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £150,000

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

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Kingswinford 01384 401777 | Brierley Hill 01384 265265 | Sedgley 01902 880888

Also at Stourbridge and Halesowen

SEDGLEY, Northway

EXTENDED, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached with flexible room arrangements comprising; porch, hallway, L shape through living room, dining room, rear hallway, cloakroom, secondary lounge, well equipped kitchen. Two staircases to first floor with FOUR BEDROOMS (one with bathroom en suite) and further shower room, Garage, parking, garden, EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £275,000

LOWER GORNAL, Winrush Close

SPACIOUS, stylish, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed four (potentially five) bedroom detached convenient for the village with lengthy garden & distant views. Accommodation set over three floors provides; hall, cloaks, family room/alternative bedroom, lounge, kitchen, dining room, conservatory. Four bedrooms (principal with en suite), bathroom, garden. EPC :C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £235,000

TIPTON, Oxford Way (close to Foxyards)

SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in favoured 'Foxes Hollow' development comprising; porch, hall, two stores, dining room, lounge with access to family room beyond (former garage), kitchen, utility section. Principle bedroom with a shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950

COSELEY, Chad Road, Bramford Estate

An attractive conscientiously maintained freehold gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and primarily uPVC double glazed semi detached excellently situated within walking so many amenities. Accommodation comprises entrance porch, reception hall, pantry, lounge with bay, dining room (with patio doors), ENLARGED 15'5" kitchen. Three bedrooms recently re-appointed/ re-tiled bathroom with contemporary white suite, Garage, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the Region of £149,950

TIPTON, Henlow Close, Foxyards

COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED! Gas centrally heated (combi), double glazed, well insulated Freehold semi detached bungalow presented almost 'as new' in cul-de-sac. Re-decorated accommodation provides entrance hallway, re-equipped kitchen, L shape living/dining room, inner hallway, two bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom, Carport, garage, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers around £147,500

WOODSETTON, Parkes Lane

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached comprising; hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage (sub-divided to form store & utility room with toilet off). Garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £145,950

Brierley Hill, Madison Avenue

Situated in close proximity to MERRY HILL SHOPPING COMPLEX, This THREE BEDROOM PROPERTY comprises: Hall, Kitchen Diner, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, THREE BEDROOMS (Master with EnSuite), Bathroom, Off Road Parking, Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC:

£144,950

WOODSETTON, Tipton Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN .Deceptively spacious two bedroom end of terrace benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating comprising; entrance hall, living room, kitchen/diner, Two double bedrooms, family shower room, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £115,000

NETHERTON, Knowle Hill Road

This BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED & SPACIOUS, SEMI-DETACHED PROPERTY would be a fantastic FIRST TIME BUY or FAMILY HOME and comprises: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Fitted Kitchen, CONSERVATORY, THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS, Family Shower Room, Rear Garden. EPC: D

£109,950

NETHERTON, Cinder Bank

This IMMACUTLATELY PRESENTED and EXPENSIVELY APPOINTED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME would be a FANTASTIC FIRST TIME BUY and briefly comprises: Hall, Stylish Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom, Driveway and Rear Garden. EPC D

New price **Offers in Excess of £109,950**

PENSNETT, Commonside

Requiring updating, this TWO BEDROOM HOME has the potential to create a great first buy/investment opportunity. Comprising; porch, hall, two reception rooms, kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC

£104,950

LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Lake Street

An extremely stylish, comparatively spacious, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR apartment. Accommodation provides reception hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units and various integrated appliances. Two bedrooms (both with first quality fitted units and principle with spacious shower room en suite), bathroom, allocated parking. EPC C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £99,950

DUDLEY, Spring Gardens

This beautifully presented and expensively furnished two bedroom home would make a fantastic first time buy and comprises; sitting room, modern kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, well appointed bathroom, driveway and pleasant rear garden. EPC

£99,950

PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

This TASTEFULLY DECORATED, EXTENDED AND IMPROVED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Sitting Room, IMPRESSIVE EXTENDED DINING KITCHEN, Guests Cloakroom, Two First Floor Bedrooms, Bathroom, Driveway, CARPORT and Pretty Rear Garden. EPC D.

£99,950

TIPTON, Oval Road

Comparatively spacious, Freehold, mostly double glazed, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) semi detached with potential occupying larger than average plot with off road parking comprising; canopy porch, reception hall, lounge, through dining kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lobby. Large garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £95,000

COSELEY, Catherine Road, Hurst Hill

ENLARGED semi detached for improvement in popular/ convenient district, and offering significant potential. Property comprises 28 ft through entrance vestibule, hallway, kitchen, enlarged 18'3" living/dining room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Integral garage, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price **WAS £99,950, NOW £94,950**

WOODSETTON, Brook Street

Mid terrace for improvement with remarkable potential- surprisingly spacious accommodation provides: hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, 3 first floor bedrooms, steps to attic - garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £89,950

PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

This LARGE, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI DETACHED HOME is 'for sale' with NO UPWARD CHAIN and has the POTENTIAL to EXTEND AND IMPROVE (subject to planning permissions). Comprising: Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, CONSERVATORY, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden. EPC: E

New price **Offers in Excess of £89,950**

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GORNAL
ASH GROVE

Modern spacious detached bungalow within walking distance of the village centre and standing on a good sized plot. Luxury-accommodationcomprises!loungeseparate dining room-conservatory-breakfast kitchen-two bedrooms with en-suite to master-bathroomgarage-private garden-immaculate thr'out
OFFERS BASED ON: £219,950

GORNAL
ST CHADS CLOSE

Modern detached bungalow situated in a quiet Cul-de-sac location within walking distance of the village centre. Well maintained accommodation comprises Lounge/Diner-fitted kitchen-one bedroom-bathroom-double glazed. Private gardens and side elevation parking/garage space.
OFFERS BASED ON: £139,950

GORNAL
WOOD ROAD

Immaculate semi-detached property standing on a sizeable landscaped plot of land with all amenities close to hand and within walking distance of the village centre. Rear service road access to double gated parking/garage space and gardens. Accommodation comprises-hall-lounge-fully fitted kitchen/diner-two bedrooms-bathroom-gas c/htg-double glazed-landscaped gardens with workshop
OFFERS BASED ON: £122,500

GORNAL
SANDSTONE CLOSE

- Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- One Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Double Glazed
- Gas C/HTG
- Front and Rear Gardens

OFFERS BASED ON: £79,950

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Spacious property ideal for the first-time buyers

NUMBER 16 Steven Drive, Bilston is a three-bedroomed semi-detached property situated in a quiet cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through Swinscoes Estate Agents for offers around £129,950.

It has a entrance hallway, downstairs WC, lounge, open plan kitchen and dining room, conservatory with patio doors leading to spacious rear garden. Upstairs there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also has three parking spaces and a front garden. Contact Swinscoes Estate Agents on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk

Dormer bungalow could be perfect family home

A STUNNING three-bedroomed dormer style bungalow, 40 Siddons Drive, Coseley, is in a prominent position.

It is for sale through Swinscoes estate agent at £219,950.

The property has been completely reconfigured and refurbished to a high specification. Close to schools and a railway station it makes the perfect family home.

The ground floor has a entrance hallway, a downstairs WC, an open plan kitchen and dining room, a utility room, living room, conservatory a large family bathroom.

The property also has a double garage, a driveway which provides off-road parking and a rear garden.

For further information contact Swinscoes Estate Agents on 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk

Victorian mansion has been restored to glory

THE Gables, Redlake Road, Pedmore, is a substantial seven-bedroomed detached residence built in 1901.

With Victorian features, large driveway, double carport and stunning rear garden, it is for sale through The Lee Shaw Partnership at £1,200,000.

Having undergone restoration The Gables has accommodation over four floors and a coach house. It includes an impressive reception hall, boot room, inner hall, butler's staircase and pantry, lounge, dining room, morning room, snug , breakfast kitchen, laundry, wet room, five first floor bedrooms (master en suite), bathroom, two second floor bedrooms and store.

The Coach House has a reception hall, shower room, office with spiral staircase to a large games room, garage and cellar. Call (01384) 396066 or visit www.leeshaw.com

The Property Ombudsman

NAEA

SWINSCOES

Sedgley
01902 672274
sales@swinscoes.co.uk

DUDLEY (NEW)

Attingham Drive
* A beautifully presented DETACHED
* 9 years old & 1 yr NHBC remaining
* Convenient for amenities of Dudley
* Close by to Dudley College
* Accommodation over three storeys
* FIVE bedrooms and THREE bathrooms
* Contemporary & spacious
* Small Rear Garden
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £279,950

COSELEY (REDUCED)

Siddons Road
* A OUTSTANDING dormer bungalow
* Close by to train station
* A luxury dining kitchen
* Conservatory and large lounge
* THREE bedrooms
* Modern bathroom
* DOUBLE GARAGE
* Rear garden
* EPC Rating - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £209,950

LOWER GORNAL

Kipling Road
* A BEAUTIFUL presented semi-detached
* Favoured address on The Straits
* THREE BEDROOMS
* A fabulous view to the rear
* Through lounge dining room
* Contemporary kitchen
* Tandem garage
* Driveway parking
* EPC Rating - TBC

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £174,950

WOODSETTON (REDUCED)

Vicarage Road West
* A fantastic DETACHED property
* Extended FOUR bedrooms
* Two reception rooms
* Kitchen and downstairs wc
* In need of some updating
* Fabulous & excellent size garden
* Garage and large driveway
* EPC Rating - F

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £159,950

DUDLEY (REDUCED)

The Straits
* A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
* Located on The Straits Rd in Gornal
* Close by to Gornal Village centre
* THREE bedrooms
* An open plan style kitchen/diner
* CONSERVATORY
* Small garden to the rear
* Upvc double glazed window
* Parking for two cars
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £154,950

DUDLEY (NEW)

Lawnswood Road
* A well presented semi-detached home
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* Close by to Ellowes Hall School
* THREE bedrooms
* Open plan style lounge/dining area
* Modern bathroom with separate shower
* Upvc double glazing throughout
* Driveway and garden
* Integral garage
* EPC Rating - D

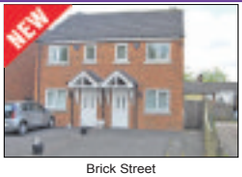
OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

GORNAL WOOD

The Alley
* A MODERN style semi-detached
* Just off 'The Straits' development
* Pleasantly located by country park
* Lounge and conservatory
* Modern kitchen
* Upvc double glazing throughout
* Gas central heating
* Integral Garage
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

SEDGLEY (NEW)



Brick Street
* An attractive MODERN semi-detached
* Walking distance into Sedgely Centre
* Open plan dining kitchen
* TWO double bedrooms
* Plenty of storage
* IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
* Driveway for two cars
* Low maintenance rear garden
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £132,250

COSELEY (NEW)

Flavell Avenue
* A beautifully presented MODERN semi
* Tastefully decorated throughout
* Ideally situated for Coseley Train Station
* Modern kitchen
* Lounge and dining room
* Three bedrooms
* Pleasant rear garden
* An ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,995

COSELEY

Stretton Place
* A beautifully presented semi-detached
* Quiet corner plot in Woodcross
* Close by to popular local schools
* Refurbished to a high standard
* Open plan dining kitchen
* Utility room and guest wc
* THREE double bedrooms
* Large garden to side and rear
* Ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

COSELEY

Sarah Close
* A modern town-house property
* Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac
* Upgraded and enhanced
* A new kitchen & shower room
* All new Upvc double glazing
* Conservatory
* TWO bedrooms
* This is an IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,950

COSELEY (REDUCED)

Langley Avenue
* A well presented end of terrace
* Ideal for a first time buyer
* Open plan modern dining kitchen
* TWO double bedrooms
* Contemporary bathroom
* Tidy rear garden
* Off road parking to the front
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* EPC Rating - D

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LONDON & CAMBRIDGE PROPERTIES

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

CBF is a true all-rounder

By John Griffiths

Bikes, to an even greater extent than cars, are very much a matter of personal choice: one size certainly doesn't fit all.

Some riders love their big, beefy cruisers, others their nippy, cheap to run jam-busters for the commuter run. Then there are those addicted to the power of the lightning fast supersports machines.

Some riders dream of a 'stable' of bikes, to choose from as the mood takes them.

But there are a handful which can turn that dream into some sort of reality: one machine, a bike for all reasons.

High on that list is Honda's CBF1000, an economical yet powerful performer which is equally at home in town traffic, on the motorway or eating up the miles as a two-up tourer.

And perhaps above all, it's among the most comfortable of bikes for riders of a range of sizes. So much so that after a 200+mile trip around Wales I arrived home thinking:'Where can I go now?' I wanted more, and that's perhaps the best reference for any form of transport: Not just getting there, but enjoying the trip too.

The CBF1000 uses a retuned version of the legendary fuel injected, four cylinder engine as the legendary, race-bred Fireblade.

While it produces less power overall (106bhp) what it has is more easy accessible and tractable for the road rider. It's been retuned to perform better at low to medium revs, with maximum torque of 96Nm for example, available at a relatively low (for a bike) 6,500rpm, compared to 10,500 for the 'Blade.

If you're a bit lazy (like me} it means your left foot isn't constantly going up and down through the six gears to cope with the variety of road and traffic conditions we meet in everyday riding. You can, for example, roll comfortably through a village, sticking to the 30mph limit, and once on the other side accelerate away in a convincingly brisk manner.

The same is true of overtaking, although changing down even one gear is enough for a surge which will mean you're safely back on your own side of the road in a couple of breaths.

The power/torque band is such that the typical 40 to 60mph overtaking band is spectacularly quick. In fact without the benefit of a big digital speedo it would be easy to hold the throttle open just a fraction too long and find yourself in the A-road danger zone.

Deceptive

Yet it isn't just the CBF's performance, it's the way that it does it. It's impressively smooth and quiet so as to be almost deceptive. Even at low, in-traffic speeds the fuel injection system lacks any tendency to snatch which can be a feature of some models, especially those which are more highly tuned.

Tipping the scales at 242kg (plus luggage) the CBF hides its weight well, a tribute to its excellent balance. It doesn't feel unwieldy crawling in traffic, as some big cruisers can, but really feels at home on the open road, sweeping through bends with the consummate ease of a sports machine, It's ability to maintain pace through the twisty bits is a source of pleasure, enabling the rider to pick and hold the perfect line.

The suspension plays its part here too, providing a first class compromise between dynamism and ride comfort. It sits between a wallowy cruiser and a firm (sometimes bouncy) supersport machine.

This latest CBF still has the three position, adjustable screen of its predecessors, but it's larger and has been reshaped, as has the bikini fairing, Riding with the screen in its highest position it was buffet-free even at motorway speeds, and while I was blessed with a fine day that augers well for protection in wet weather, too.

The seat is height adjustable, too, so most riders should be able to find a good, upright position for control and long distance comfort,

The instrument panel includes a clear (even in bright sunlight) display with speedo, clock, fuel gauge and tripmeter on either side of the analogue rev counter.

Even the pillion passenger gets a comfortable, generously-sized seat and, with the optional top box fitted to the test bike, a nice padded backrest, The deluxe touring version also comes with panniers (which are available in a variety of sizes).

The CBF's brakes are more than a match for the bike's performance, with only the lightest pressure needed to scrub off excess speed in short order.

This comes courtesy of two 296mm discs at the front and a single 240mm disc at the rear. The option of Honda's combined ABS system (standard on flagship models) will ensure stability even if you do need to do some heavy braking.

The CBF has a 19-litre fuel tank, including a four litre reserve, which gives you a reasonable range based on my 50 to 55mpg average,

Such an easy bike to ride makes the CBF an ideal introduction to the pleasure and satisfaction of the one-litre class: I've rarely felt more relaxed on a bike.

But it would be a mistake to classify it as a 'beginners' machine' in this top echelon of bikes. It's real-world performance will be more than enough for all but the hardcore rider - in fact it's the chosen machine of at least one race school.

For comfort it compares well with a dedicated touring machine and pillion passengers in particular will appreciate having something far more comfortable than a small square of hard plastic to sit on if you're contemplating something more challenging the a ride outto the local cafe.

The CBF is a true all-rounder, equally adept at relaxed, cruiser-style riding or as a 'flick it through the bends' sportster when the mood and conditions allow.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Sport Tourer 2.8i 325PS VXR Supersport NAV 24v V6 Turbo 4x4 with 18", 19" & 20" wheels, M6: Urban: 17.7 (16.0), Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9), Combined: 25.9 (10.9). CO_2 emissions: 255g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Viva 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 75PS SE with Eco Tyre 14", 15" and 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 52.3 (5.4), Extra-urban: 76.3 (3.7), Combined: 64.2 (4.3). CO_2 emissions: 99g/km.

Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th June 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to availability at participating Retailers only. *5 years 0% APR offer excludes Sting, Techline and Viva models, Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status, Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle, ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.

Spiced up 308 GT is Peugeot's flagship

By Bill McCarthy

SOME like it hot when it comes to Peugeots, note the 205 GTi and the 208 GTi.

So it should be no surprise to see the firm's small family car the 308 gets a piece of the action.

The 308 is a fine looking car in its own right, but with the spiced up GT as its flagship, it gets a bit of extra bling, badges and performance, both the hatchback and estate.

Despite the sporty makeover, the car remains a hugely practical economical compact family car, with the estate tested here just as good looking as the saloon, in common with many estates these days.

With a choice of petrol or diesel engines available, and tweaked, lowered suspension, both deliver warm rather than hot-hatch performance.

Squaring the circle of performance with economy is never going to be easy, but both the 1.6-litre petrol and two-litre diesel engines offer decent economy and lowish CO2 emissions, with the efficient diesel tested here being particularly frugal.

Despite being able to propel the car from 0-60mph in just 8.4 seconds, it has claimed fuel economy of nearly 70mpg and very low emissions of 107g/km, making it a very attractive fleet car option.

They are not cheap, but are impressively equipped with standard kit which would bump up price of cheaper competitors. These include high-end items like radar parking sensors with rear camera and head up display as well as the usual array of gadgetry you would expect on a car in the mid-£20,000 bracket.

It is very stylish featuring all-LED headlamps, with LED daytime running lights and LED indicators and the signature lion badge can now be found on the grille, breaking slightly with the corporate Peugeot floating grille seen across the range.

Sporty side skirts have been added as you move around the car towards the rear where where twin exhausts complete the sporty look. This is all topped off by striking 18-inch alloy wheels with fluted spokes and engraved motif.

Peugeot interiors are now up there with the best and the GT features exclusive touches with high-quality finish upholstery in anthracite with red stitching around the dashboard, door panels, gear lever gaiter and floor mats.

Aluminium detailing on the pedals, coupled with stainless steel sill finishers in the door apertures, add the finishing touch. It also features the now familiar neat and sporty steering wheel, also finished with perforated leather trim and featuring the GT badge.

The dash and controls are simple and easy to use, featuring the firm's, decluttered layout of the dash with touch screen, controlling functions like climate, sat nav and infotainment, with easy to read dials in the binnacle.

The four-cylinder 2.0-litre BlueHDi 180 diesel engine also offers a high level of performance and great pulling power with a maximum torque of 400Nm at 2,000rpm making it an easy car to drive on the motorway. It is coupled to smooth shifting six-speed automatic gearbox.

Standard kit also includes the Driver Sport Pack, which delivers raspier exhaust note, red display when switched to sport mode; instrument panel that displays the power and torque delivered, more responsive power steering, accelerator pedal mapping and operation of the gearbox, with steering wheel-mounted control paddles.

While not breathtaking performance, these enhancements plus the sportier suspension deliver and enjoyable drive, but just as importantly a comfortable ride when the sport mode is disabled.

Being an estate the stowage area is large, particularly with rear seats folded flat, but is also well-shaped with easy access for smaller people and other stowage areas abound through the cabin.

All Peugeots have high levels of safety kit and the GT includes all round airbags, assisted braking and stability control, plus Isofix child anchor points.

It's expensive, but offers a comprehensive range of equipment, is hugely practical – and it sure looks good.

TESTED

Peugeot 308 SW GT BlueHDi 180

Price: £26,845
Mechanical: 180bhp, 1,997cc, 4cyl diesel engine driving front wheels via 6-speed automatic gearbox
Max speed: 135mph
0-60mph: 8.4 seconds
Combined mpg: 68.9
Insurance: 17
CO2 emissions: 107g/km
BIK rating: 19%
Warranty: 3yrs/60,000 miles

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10/60 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE** 5 door, Black, 39,281 miles ..... £6495 NOW £6345
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12/12 **VIVARO 2900 COMBI 1.9CDTI LWB** 9 Seat Minibus, White, 29,000 miles miles ..... £12,450 NOW £12,250
08/08 **HONDA CIVIC 1.8 TYPE-S** 3 door, Silver, 49,000 miles ..... £5995 NOW £5795
14/14 **NISSAN MICRA VISIA 1.2** 5 door, White, 4,010 miles ..... £6995 NOW £6750
11/61 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 EXCITE** 5 door, Grey, 30,010 miles ..... £7995 NOW £7695
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08/58 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi** 3 door, Blue, 53,000 miles ..... £4995 NOW £4795
12/61 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi** 3 door, Silver, 12,010 miles ..... £6995 NOW £6795
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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, June 25, 2015

Aspray24 expansion plans with DAF trucks

By James Parker

Next day delivery is at the heart of the Aspray24 business where there is an operation delivering 24 hours a day across the UK. Based in Willenhall, they have 14 depots including Glasgow, Washington in the North East, Milton Keynes, Harlow, Eastleigh (Chandlers Ford), Avonmouth, near Bristol and Cardiff.

Aspray24 started in Bilston 31 years ago with four DAF trucks bought through Greenhous. The firm handles 30,000 items as part of 1,000 tonnes of freight moved daily. The business supports 770 staff and has a fleet deploying 300 to 350 vehicles per day, with 150 trailers.

Greenhous has just supplied Aspray24 with a further 30 DAF trucks which will form part of an expansion of its DAF fleet and also as part of routine replacement of older vehicles. It is vital the firm is seen by their customers using modern, high quality, reliable vehicles.

Aspray24 and Greenhous have a long-standing working relationship and, together with DAF, they have formed a development group to enable DAF to test modifications, new engines and driver assist systems in real life working conditions before they are rolled out on their new vehicles.

Privilege

Being trusted to be part of a DAF development programme is a major privilege for the two companies and one which is treated very seriously by all concerned.

Ian Barclay, operations director for Aspray24 explains: "With such a large fleet of DAF trucks we have to be mindful of reliability, fuel efficiency and technical advances that make driving a safer experience.

"The trust built between ourselves, Greenhous and DAF has come from many years of working closely together and it has helped to refine the product we use today.

"We were involved in the field tests for the new Euro 6 engines from the start and assist in providing constructive criticism and positive feedback directly to the DAF engineers so that they can react and adapt systems in real time, speeding up the process of development."

Rob Binnion, Greenhous retail truck sales manager, expanded on this saying: "Both of our companies are technically astute and test the DAF truck capabilities to their full extent on the road, and we understand the importance of providing accurate, clear guidance to the engineers.

"The DAF engineers from Holland visited us and it was obvious that they valued the professionalism we and Aspray24 showed in providing assistance in feedback meetings.

"A highly valued tripartite relationship between the three companies has produced excellent benefits for each of us."

An example of where the development group have progressed the DAF truck offer is Aspray24 providing weekly feedback on fuel data from their test vehicles. DAF engineers responded putting forward solutions to achieve optional fuel use efficiency or fault diagnosis for the Greenhous DAF technicians to implement.

Technical

Safety modifications which are now fitted as standard on DAF trucks were tested with Greenhous and Aspray24 first. These include lane departure warning, emergency braking and adaptive cruise control.

The new trucks which Apray24 operate benefit from the latest technological adaptations meaning that the company is up to date with European directives immediately they are implemented.

Ian Barclay reflects that the DAF servicing infrastructure, including that offered by Greenhous, is excellent and with a national operation the company requires a high quality, 24 hour service provision.

"We will use our new 30 DAF's strategically across the country, replacing higher mileage vehicles that work the long haul routes, for example to Scotland and return overnight", said Ian.

"Our London depots require low emission vehicles and we are looking at developing the "silent vehicle" technology with Greenhous and DAF for use in inner city and town areas."

The new acquisitions include 10 DAF FALF150 7.5T and 10 DAF FALF180 12T Daycab EURO 6 chassis with Cartwright curtain side bodies along with 10 DAF FTCF370 DAYCAB 4X2 EURO 6 tractor units with safety features.

Pictured above: Left, the range of DAF trucks. Right: Ian Barclay is pictured holding a presentation award from DAF in Eindhoven, Holland of a DAF CF truck and trailer in recognition of the successful partnership on the development programme.

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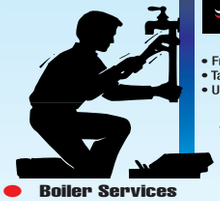

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All electrics, blow air heating, fridge, cooker, sink, cassette toilet, shower, 4 berth, battery.
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2007, awning, water bottles.
Large separate shower.
Immaculate inside and out.
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01384 565140.
07761 091577.

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CARAVAN FOR HIRE Bronze plus 6 birth caravan, with cot based at Aberystwyth Clarach bay, all amenities on site. Dog friendly 07877 692443.

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2011, family caravan. 4 berth, with fixed rear bunks. Good size washroom, with separate shower. Motor mover and awning. Excellent condition.
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01902 747396.

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off site, 28 x 20 Two bedroom residential unit
Will suit a self-build project on own land. Can be viewed in Shrewsbury.
£9,995 For further details
please contact Paul on 07803 290687

MAXUS CAMPER
2007, 2 owners, 15k miles, 2-berth, LWB, high top, 2.5VM diesel, MoT Dec 2015, FSH, bed, hook up, 100 watt solar, oak kitchen, wash room, Thetford toilet, alloys, electric step, grap rails.
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£8,500.
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480 2004 Two Berth excellent condition inside and out. Comes with 12 month warranty and Service. £7,995 more models available.
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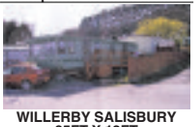
35ft x 12ft, with large decking, on quiet site in Llanbrynmair, Mid Wales, with 2 carp pools, 20 minutes to nearest coast. Ground rent paid until November.
£5,950 ono.
Telephone 07555 303350.



WILLERBY SALISBURY 35FT X 12FT
2 bedroom static caravan, excellent condition, sited on Aberystwyth hoilday village. Fee paid for 2015.
£3,000
01902 637675 /
07947 686819.

WILLERBY STATIC CARAVAN
28 x 10, 2 bedrooms, On quiet park with two fishing pools in Mid Wales. Site fees included for 2015. Dog friendly.
£3,800.
Telephone 07922 351352.

fishing

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caravan holidays

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what's on

antique fairs

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markets

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summer fayre

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Come and see Elsa from Frozen.

3 Home & Services

furniture

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Very good condition, Sherbourne make, large size, dual motor. 2 years old, storage 1 year. 1st very good brown leather, 2nd terracotta fabric. Worth £600 each, sell each
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thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

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vets

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5 Business & Farming

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EXPERIENCED JOINERS & SITE FITTERS required. CSCS card required for site fitters. Contact B. Cahill on 01384 413999

REINSTATEMENT TEAMS required. Blacktop & Whitetop. Full Streetworks Certs, CPC and Driving licence required. Good rates of pay. Please contact 01384 262883 or charliecraig@srconstructionltd.co.uk

drivers

HGV DRIVER + VEHICLE Needed. Only Qualified people need apply. Good rates of pay. Please contact 01384 262883 or charliecraig@srconstructionltd.co.uk

engineering

FIRST COMPONENTS & SAVIGNY ODDIE LTD PRODUCTION CONTROLLER Must be experienced in MRP systems.
PRESS TOOLMAKER For in-house service and repair CNC MACHINISTS For CNC Lathes and CNC Millers QUALITY ENGINEER Must be fully conversant with Automotive PPAP Level 3 documentation and measuring systems. Call 01384 262068. No Agencies.

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EXPERIENCED PART TIME STYLIST Dudley area. Tel 07950 501281.

motor trade

HGV AND VAN MECHANIC Only Qualified people need apply. Good rates of pay. Please contact 01384 262883 or charliecraig@srconstructionltd.co.uk

full time - general

JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL TECHNICIAN
A position is available within a busy architectural practice for a Junior Technician.
The position would ideally suit a candidate with GCSE / A Levels looking to commence a career within architecture.
In the first instance please supply a full CV to:
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G. H. DESIGN LTD
Unit 2-3 Newton House,
The Pensnett Estate,
Kingswinford,
West Midlands DY6 7YE

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN required for manufacturing company based in Tipton, West Midlands. Experience with Injection Moulding Machines (Boy and Battenfeld etc), general electrical maintenance, fault finding and preventative maintenance skills are a necessity. Ability to PAT test, and carry out other general maintenance would be an advantage. Good rate of pay offered for the right candidate, please contact us on (enter email address) with your CV and covering letter.
recruitment@masefield-beta.co.uk

ASHLEY MANOR UPHOLSTERY LIMITED
Is a leading manufacturer of quality upholstery based in Dudley - Require the following people due to our long term expansion.
CUTTING ROOM SUPERVISOR
previous experience essential
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Must have experience in all aspects of cutting
EXPERIENCED UPHOLSTERERS
Must have previous experience in the upholstery trade.
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If you are interested in becoming part of our team, please apply to
Mr Adam Sharman: Works Manager
ASHLEY MANOR UPHOLSTERY LTD
Unit 1,Woodside Industrial Est, Pedmore Road, Dudley, DY2 ORL.
Telephone 01384 486800

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Require the following staff due to expansion
Class 1 & Class 2 Drivers for Multi Drop Carpet Deliveries
To Include Over time & Nights out
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Annual CPC training also Given.
To request an application form please ring 01562 755494
Office Administrator for September start
To include Credit Control, Insurance and General Offices Duties
Must have experience of Sage 200 and Excel and be able to work Under own initiative.
Hours of work 9.00am until 5.00pm
Please send CV's to gill@breakwells.com
Breakwells llp, Stourport Road, Kidderminster DY11 7QN

ADVERTISEMENTS
CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

1. **Midland News Association Limited** All publications in this group are published by the Midland News Association Limited, registered office Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES ('the Company') and this is the address to which any notices should be sent.
2. **Acceptance** The Company will only accept advertising on these standard terms and no other contract terms or conditions will apply other than those which are implied by statute and cannot lawfully be excluded. In particular the Company will not accept advertising on the basis of advertiser's terms and conditions.
3. **Content of Advertisements** All advertisements must be legal decent honest and truthful. Advertisements must comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes under the general supervision of the Advertising Standards Authority. Advertisements must comply with the requirements of all current legislation including but not limited to the following:- All advertisements must clearly differentiate between trade and private advertising as required by the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must comply with the Consumer Credit (Advertisement) Regulations 1980.
All descriptions of goods must be accurate and in no way infringe the provisions of the Trades Descriptions Act 1968.
Advertisements must not contain any material which is defamatory. You must have permission to use any material contained in your advertisement and must not infringe the copyright moral rights or any other right of any third party.
The Company reserves the right to refuse to carry any advertisement or to require amendment of any advertisement in its absolute discretion.
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6. **Box numbers The Company** accepts no liability for loss or damage caused by delay in forwarding or omission to forward to the advertiser replies to Box Numbers. Box Numbers must not be used for sending goods, distributing circulars or communications from agents. The Company reserves the right to open and inspect all replies to Box Number and to destroy goods, circulars of communications from agents which are discovered during an inspection.
7. **Inspection The Company** shall be entitled at any time to inspect any goods or services advertised and may decline to carry further advertising if such inspection is not permitted or if in the Company's opinion the provision of further advertising facilities is not appropriate in view of the nature or quality of the goods or services.
8. **Indemnity** The advertiser, including any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement, warrants that it has permission to use for publication by electronic and printed means all material which is included in the advertisement. The advertiser and any advertising agency involved in placing any advertisement agree to indemnify the Company in respect of all charges, costs, claims or damage arising out of the publication of the advertisement, whether the same result from actual or threatened legal action or from some other cause.
9. **Cancellation** On a request for cancellation or amendment of a classified advertisement being accepted, you will be given a cancellation or amendment number which must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence. Payment of the originally agreed price will be required in full for any advertisement in relation to which the advertiser is unable to supply a valid cancellation or amendment number. Cancellation can only be accepted if the Company is notified of the cancellation by no later than the following deadlines:-
Lineage, Semi Display - By no later than 6.30pm on the working day prior to publication. Advertisements to appear on Monday must be cancelled by 10 am on the preceding Saturday
Classified Display - By no later than 24 hours before the date of publication
Colour/Features - By no later than 10 clear days before the date of publication
To cancel Lineage, Semi Display and Classified Display advertisements please telephone 01902 317878. To cancel Colour/Features advertisements please speak to the Representative through whom the advertisement was booked.
10. **Rates** Advertising rates are as laid out in the Company's current rate card which is available on request from the Company's offices. The rates may be varied from time to time in the Company's absolute discretion and without prior notification of the intended variation. The revised rate will be charged for any advertising ordered after the date of variation.
All gross advertising rates except classified lineage and semi-display are subject to a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance levy payable by advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
11. **Payment** The Company reserves the right to require pre-payment as a condition of any advertisement being published. Where pre-payment is not required unless different credit terms have been agreed with the advertiser in writing payment must be made within 14 days of the date of issue of the Company's invoice. An additional £2.00 booking charge will be payable if the invoice is not paid in full within this 14 day period.
Any additional credit facilities which are offered are at the Company's absolute discretion. The advertiser's liability shall be for the full amount of all advertising ordered and shall not be limited to the amount of any credit limit which the Company may impose.
Payment may be made by [method] cash, cheque or credit/debit card. The advertiser's obligation to pay for other items on an account shall not be affected by the existence of any query over an individual item within that account.
12. **Data Protection Act** The advertiser's details will be retained by the Company for the purposes of administering our accounts records and so that the Company may notify the advertiser of future advertising opportunities which may be of interest to you. By placing advertising with the Company the advertiser agrees to your details being used for this purpose.
13. **Applicable Law** These conditions of acceptance shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

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We buy any house

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SOLD!

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CASH NOW
FOR YOUR HOUSE

- Legal fees paid
- No fees
- Any condition
- Guaranteed offer
- Repossessions stopped

we can buy your house in **2 days**

Subject to terms

land and commercial enquiries welcome

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or 01902 628060 24/7

wolverhampton properties

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national homeowners helpline.co.uk
in a mess? talk in confidence we can help

LOOK WE PAY MORE

*PI Group *subject to terms

ANY AREA, ANY CONDITION, WE BUY ANY HOUSE

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I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!

I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house

GUARANTEED

- Guaranteed offer*
- Any condition
- Free solicitors
- No fees*

*Terms apply Part of the PI Group

24 hours Free phone or landline
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LOCAL NUMBER 01384 226086

Dewmark Homes

STOP
WE PAY MORE!

100% every time* Any Property* Free Solicitors No Fees* Any Condition*
PI Group *Subject to terms Anytime day or night

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call Alex - Anytime

SOLD

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01543 499 032

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Call any time
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*Local *Honest *Reliable
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01384 226086

PICK UP the phone CALL NOW
Best Price
Sam
01543 499032
0800 500 3109

I WILL BUY YOUR HOUSE
Call today for a best price
0800 731 1160
0121 274 0398

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BRIERLEY HILL 2-bed, newly decorated, must see, suit working/retired £500pcm. 07585 429131.

HIGH Quality One Bed and Studio Flats Tettenhall area, No DSS. 07976 263435 / 01902 700028.

ONE BED FLAT BILSTON ONE Bed Flat Merridale. 35 plus DSS ok 01902 686605

PENN. 1 bed self contained flats, refurbished, CH, DG, no deposit, from £70pw. 07900 156313.

ROOMS TO LET, Bills Included In Bilston, Tipton and Wolverhampton areas. Call 07773 594640

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton. from £85 pw inc bills. No DSS. Small deposit 07940 116130

flats for sale

TWO BEDROOM Maisonette, Kidderminister, £68,000 ono. 07730 477985 for details.

houses for sale

STOURPORT ON SEVERN
2 bedroom semi detached house. New refurb inside and landscaped garden.
Please see my website for more info http://farmroad.simdif.com
£114,500 ono.
07841 143779.

land

LAND WANTED Up to an acre, radius of five miles from Wton, must have own access. 07404 355880.

overseas property

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A CHARMING FRENCH FARMHOUSE COTTAGE
Normandy france, set in 2.9 acres of land, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, open plan living, dining and kitchen area, log burner, beautiful views, gite to renovate and outbuildings.
£139,000.
Call 0033 758216910 or annlivingthedream@gmail.com

A DETACHED COUNTRY HOUSE BULGARIA
Edge of village, far reaching view, 1/2 acre of land, variety of fruit trees, fully furnished and more, a car, fishing lake 150 yards, low living costs.
£29,000.
07410 980475 or 01384 413331.

mobile homes

LOOK

HOLIDAY HOME CHALET NEAR ABERYSTWYTH
Amazing walks close to sea. Dog friendly.
On site swimming pool. Entertainment and shops, etc.
Living room. Kitchen.
Two bedrooms. Shower / toilet.
New roof and windows.
Outside decking area and parking.
Pics on request.
2015 site fees paid.
£12,500 ono.
Telephone 07969 156824 or 07815 444465.

properties wanted

A A PROPERTIES PAY A better cash price. Call Richard 07756 022973.

A BEAT ALL CASH DEAL We pay 100% of purchase price always 0800 085 6626.

A BEST CASH DEAL PAID for your property every time 01902 628047

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

ALWAYS CALL US FIRST for the top price for your house. 0800 169 1118.

WE ALWAYS PAY MORE for the best price now. Call Aardvark 0121 308 7786

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 318Ci CONVERTIBLE 52 reg. MoT Apr, 102,000 miles, fsh, excellent condition, inspection welcome £2,195 ono. 07583 019478.

SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.
Packages start from as little as
£19.50 for 6 nights
Plus
6 nights free if you do not sell.
CALL
01902 317878

FORD FIESTA Zetec, 1.25, 2008, 2 lady family owners, 58,000 miles, MoT till Feb 2016, good condition £2,500. 01902 743352.

FORD FOCUS Climate, 1.6, 56 reg, PAS, EW, CL, AC, CD, alloys, heated front screen, FSH, excellent condition, £2,450. 01384 350369.

JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 DIESEL 2004, automatic, SE spec, excellent condition, surprisingly economical.
Any inspection welcome.
£2,995. o.n.o.
07973 829909.

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OR 100% MARKET VALUE IN 28 DAYS!
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Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

LEXUS 450 HYBRID 56 06, 1 previous owner, new shape, fully serviced, every extra, had major service, excellent throughout, cost £38,000 new
£8,500 ono.
01902 761298/07490 087526.

MERCEDES C270 CDI ELEGANCE
Auto 2002, full leather, electric heated front seats, alloys, ABS, EW, AC, CL, CD, alarm, headlamp wash, front/rear parking sensors, MoT April 2016.
Very Clean Car £2,000
07724 629285

MERCEDES ESTATE C32 AMG V6 3.2 LITRE 2004, rare car, silver, immaculate condition, supercharged, auto, fully loaded, towbar, Bose sound, full MoT, just serviced.
£5,650.
01384 233255 (after 6pm).

PEUGEOT 107, 55, red, 1 litre 10 months MoT, c/l, CD player. Excellent condition. £20 tax. £1,895 ono. Telephone 07831 232257.

PORCH BOXSTER 986 2.7, Reg April 2002, manual, black leather interior, bose sound system, artic silver metallic, under 75,000 miles, excellent condition.
£6,500.
07762 710966.

SEAT TOLEDO SPORT TDi 2005, diesel, manual, 6 speed, black, 5 door, 60k miles, A/C, electrics, stereo, MoT June 2016.
£2,000
07593 170 305.

TOYOTA RAV 4 54 reg, 3-dr, black, with history, excellent value, £2,995. 01562 710289.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2SXi 3 door, 2012, 13,000 miles, white colour coded bumpers and spoiler, alloys, Vauxhall fsh, Vauxhall Warranty till October, e/w, e/m, c/l, lady owner, economical, excellent throughout. **£5,995 ono.**
07850 064019 / 01902 650037.

VAUXHALL TIGRA 1,8 EXCLUSIVE 2006, silver, heated leather seats, 45,000 miles, lady owner, immaculate.
£2,995.
01902 493846. 07833 053165.

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2.0 SDI 2005, 80,700 Miles, Silver , abs, e/w, e/m, fsh, full MoT, 5 door, alloy wheels, immobiliser, cam belt changed, p/steer.
£3,800 o.n.o
07733243150

cars under £1500

BMA Est. Here 25 Years
A WIDE RANGE OF CARS UNDER £1,000
Open every day, Full MOT's
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ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CITROEN DISPATCH, 07 reg, 1900 Diesel, 6 mths MoT. New tyres/ clutch. Fully alarmed, locking nuts. £1,750 ono. Dudley 07923 191378.

CITROEN PICASSO 52 plate, long MoT, some service history, good condition, £1,150. o.n.o. 01902 895796.

CITROEN PICASSO 1.6, 2005, long MoT, a/c, e/w, pas, great practical family car, £1,150 ono. Telephone 07817 029177.

CITROEN PICASSO SX, February 2003, full MoT, drives superb, 75,000 miles, light blue, £795. 07773 996403.

CROWN MOTORS Closing down clearance trade sale. Lots of bargains. 07585 664389. WV14 8AA.

FORD KA, 04, red, 66k, long MoT, alloy wheels, stereo. Great condition, cheap to run. £895 ono. 07754 557861.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 Zetec S, 1999, MoT, black, 60k, excellent condition, new clutch, £795 ono. 07791 113080.

FORD FUSION 1.6 petrol, 05 reg, 5dr, full MoT, AC, EW, CL, £895. 07851 213316.

FORD KA 1.3, 38k miles, MoT, 02 reg, burgundy red, CD, excellent clean condition throughout, drives perfectly, £700 ono. 01902 564264.

LANDROVER FREELANDER SE 2001, blue, 76k, MoT, full leather, heated seats, AC, excellent condition. £1,395 o.n.o. 07898 196368.

MERCEDES C220 CDi Classic automatic Estate, 2000, good condition, MoT, £850.
01384 352668 or 07811 176564.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4. (05), silver, 5dr, long MoT, A/C, PAS, CD player £30 year Tax. Excellent condition. £1,150. o.n.o. 07429 999105.

PEUGEOT 206 CONVERTIBLE 02, blue, FSH, long MoT, immaculate condition. £975. 01384 440258.

PEUGEOT 206 HDi diesel, superb reliable, full MoT, service history, real eye catcher, £1,050. 07889 434584.

PEUGEOT 406 GTX ESTATE, W reg, 11 months MoT, blue, excellent runner, smart car. Bargain. £950. 01902 341611.

RENAULT CLIO 1150CC 2004, 9 months MoT, petrol, 66k, immaculate, slight damage on door, red, 3dr. £795 ono. 07733 063247.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.5TDI 2006, 96,000 miles, black, electric windows/mirrors, air con, MoT, diesel, sunroof, alloys, CD, cheap road tax!
£1,399 ono.
07784 541129.

STREET KA 55 plate, 1.6, 68,000 miles, SH, MoT March 2016, very good condition, £999. Wton 07910 514697.

TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 1995, red, 7 months MoT, 73k miles, new cat and front discs and pads, good tyres £495 ono. 01902 882269.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2003, 1.2SXi, 3dr, peppermint green, 75,000 miles, full MoT, good reliable clean car, £950. Call 01922 404319.

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 CLUB 2003, petrol / gas, black, EW, Air con, long MoT, CL, radio/CD. £1,460 ono. 01384 401209.

VW GOLF, 2003, 91,840 miles, blue, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, one owner, £1,499 ono. 07773 087011.

classic cars

CLASSIC CARS WANTED
Private cash buyer
Instant cash settlement.
Any age. any condition.
Call Market Drayton.
01630 652993.

JAGUAR XJS 5.3 V12 2dr, Auto, 1986, dolphin blue, antelope interior, 89,000 miles. £4,750. 01902 752590.

TRIUMPH HERALD CONVERTIBLE 1971, 13-60, excellent chassis and mechanics, for restoration.New wings and floor panel to fit.
Sensible offers.
Telephone 01902 762591.

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commercial vehicles

Bad Credit? CCJ? New Start? guaranteed finance
NO PROBLEM!
Huge choice of stock with deposits from just £1000
Call 02476 667827
www.guaranteedvanfinance.com

MERCEDES VITO 1900 DIESEL. (03 plate). Perfect working order. £1,600. o.n.o. 01384 457219 .

VAUXHALL COMBO vans, 03 and 04, diesel, MoT, excellent condition, £950/£1,150. 07801 746853.

driving tuition

Drive All Seasons
Lessons Starting FROM
5 Lessons £50
10 Lessons £89
Manual & Automatic
Franchise Opportunities Available
COVERING WOLVERHAMPTON, WALSALL & CANNOCK.
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AMAZING OFFER 5 lessons £40, 10 lessons £80. £15 an hour there after. Call now 07958 051263.

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MALE & FEMALE INSTRUCTORS
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ADI/PDI REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available.
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01562 870050 / 01384 234954
01543 660120 / 0121 564 0090
01902 580065
www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

motorbikes

KAWASAKI ZR750 F1. 1999. Good condition. 23k miles, long MoT. New chain-sprokets-pads. £1,750. Wolverhampton: 07754 121452.

WE BUY ALL BIKES immaculate, as new, barn or garaged, non runners. Cash on collection. Call Peter at All Bikes, 01902 312939.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

1st CHOICE
TOP PRICE PAID 4 SCRAP CARS!
VAN CAMPERS! MOT FAILURES!
ANYTHING CONSIDERED, FREE COLLECTION WITHIN THE HOUR! 7 DAYS
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07895 346811- 24 hrs

A B SPARES
Pays More
All Scrap Cars & Vans Wanted
Anything Considered
Free Collection
Scrap It Legally COD. Given Instant Payment.
01902 493110 / 0121 525 5813 daytime
01902 659775 evenings

£120 MINIMUM PAID for Scrap Vehicles
Free collection
Top prices paid for classic cars, abandoned projects etc
Call Alan 07832 332566

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A BETTER PRICE for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale. **NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.**

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available **0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400. Evening 07813 184611 Oldbury Area.**

vehicle hire

VAN AND TRUCK Looking for a van to hire. Go to our web site www.marrelsystems.com please call us 0121 552 4866.

vehicles wanted

A BAD DEAL COSTS YOU CASH Cars / Vans, 51 reg onwards.Top prices,will visit.07970 705466.Now!

CLASSIC CAR or motorcycle wanted, private buyer. 01902 829472 / 07928 721487.

spares & accessories

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Lost/stolen keys? Remote fobs and transponders. Competitive prices. Private and Trade welcome, domestic and commercial properties covered.
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Clios & Micras
Ring for quotes on others!

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

spares/parts

ROOF BOXES & Bar package deals from £159.95. Wolves Hire 01902 746723. Tettenhall Rd, WV6 0LE.

tyres / wheels / exhausts

MINI COOPER 5, 17ins alloy wheels with tyres, good condition £550. Mini space saver wheel 15ins, new £50. 01902 737671.

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INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY
DUDLEY COUNTY COURT
NO 218 of 2007 **RE: SIMON DAVID WILLETTS**

Of 32 Linwood Road, Dudley, West Midlands DY1 4EA, lately residing at 41 Newland Grove, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 0TJ. Unemployed.

D.O.B: 12 February 1977

I intend to pay within four months from *28th July 2015* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 15.08 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *28th July 2015* otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at 2nd Floor, 3 Piccadilly Place, London Road, Manchester M1 3BN or telephone 0161 2348553 to supply a form.

Mr A Oliver, Official Receiver and trustee

SECURITY HUB (UK) LIMITED
Registered Number: 07067129
Previous name of company: Powell Security Supplies Limited. Registered office and Principal trading address: 63 Wellington Road Dudley West Midlands. Pursuant to Section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986. I, Claire Louise Foster (IP Number 9423), of Revive Business Recovery Limited, Doncaster Business Innovation Centre Ten Pound Walk Doncaster DN4 5HX telephone number: 01302 554925 give notice that I was appointed liquidator of the above named Company on 05/06/2015 by the Members and Creditors.
Alternative person to contact: Karis Hodgkinson karis@revivebusinessrecovery.co.uk.

Section 85(1), Insolvency Act 1986
SECURITY HUB (UK) LIMITED
Registered Number: 07067129
Previous name of company: Powell Security Supplies Limited. Registered office and Principal trading address: 63 Wellington Road Dudley West Midlands. Resolution to Wind Up: That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the company cannot, by reason of its liabilities, continue its business, and that it is advisable to wind up the same, and accordingly that the Company be wound up voluntarily. Resolution by Members to Appoint Liquidator: That Claire Louise Foster (IP Number 9423) of Revive Business Recovery Limited, Doncaster Business Innovation Centre Ten Pound Walk Doncaster DN4 5HX, be and is hereby appointed liquidator for the purposes of such winding up. Creditors appointment Confirmation: The appointment of Claire Louise Foster was confirmed by the creditors.
Date of which Resolutions were passed: 05/06/2015. Office Holder's Telephone number: 01302 554925.
Alternative person to contact: Karis Hodgkinson karis@revivebusinessrecovery.co.uk.
LYNDSEY POWELL, Director *T444192*

10 Personals

general

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personal

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Photo appreciated (returned).
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CARING 64 YEAR OLD LADY
Would love to meet a caring, reliable, honest gent, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more.
I enjoy visiting country pubs, meals out and in, music and holidays home and aboard.
If interested drop me a line.
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GENTLEMAN 60
Slim, single, very good sense of humour, caring nature, no ties, like walks, sport, meals out, nights in and out, light smoker, WLTM slim lady similar age for hopefully long term relationship for sharing life and being there for each other.
Genuine replies only please.
Box Number P19885 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

TRYING TO START AGAIN
Gornal Wood Man, 58, GSOH, own home and car, non-smoker, young at heart, enjoys cosy nights, walks, old pubs, meals in and out, visiting interesting places and music.
WLTM local female, loving, trustworthy, kind, slimmish build for friendship-relationship and see where it leads.
Would like a photo please, (returned).
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Making Friends

Women seeking men

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SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTM uniformed police for genuine, sincere relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

THEA, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTM genuine male who will accept her as she is. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663**

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985**

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513**

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4721992**

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419**

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285**

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

FUN loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more, GSH and grey hair preferable! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317**

KIND caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in Leamington Spa area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4527227**

HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 3in, GSOH .Loves travel, many interests. WLTM man with caravan/camper to share weekends/holidays. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4492014**

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223**

Men seeking women

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TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

PHIL 57, OHAC, discreet, seeks no strings fun with younger female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414991**

GENUINE male, 58, OHAC, looking for fun lady for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601**

CUDDLY 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594**

DAVE 37 looking for a nice lady any age to have a laugh with so if that's you text me. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4320134**

DUBLINER, good sense of humour, strong and very fit would love to meet a warm sensitive lady, non smoker. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4754715**

WIDOWER would love to meet female over 70 for friendship. Car owner. Fed up being lonely. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4760869**

MALE, 50yrs, caring, easy going seeks female 40/50 for friendship/relationship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4761012**

DENNIS 72, widower, seeking female, 60-65 for friendship, travel companion, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417927**

MALE, outgoing 5ft10 medium built, seeking the right lady, local and caring. Likes to have fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4750169**

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387**

TIM, easygoing honest male, discreet, uninhibited, seeks similar non conformist averagely attractive, N/S female up to 65. Notts. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375065**

MALE 47, medium build, seeks female, 40-50 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415651**

34YR old slim, dark haired, creative, adventurous, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks likeminded female to share fun and happiness with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753**

MIKE, 61, 5ft.5in, Coalville area seeking 30+ year old lady with long blonde hair and blue eyes for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4709567**

MALE nurse, tall dark and handsome, 44yrs old, easy going, romantic, seeks female for lots of off duty fun and romance! Derby area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4172512**

BBW lover looking for fun and frolics in the afternoon or evening. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417795**

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeking pretty BBW for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411801**

WIDOWER 70 plus, seeking female for friendship. Love me love my dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417439**

MALE, medium build, down to earth, salt & pepper hair, GOSH, Sincere, WLTM someone similar. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4744385**

JOE 60s seeking fun loving lady for discreet LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4257766**

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Swimmers left trailing in tough competition

Mercian Summer League Round 2 Leamington Spa

HALESOWEN swimmers travelled to Leamington Spa to compete in the second round of the Mercian Summer League.

The draw promised tough competition where they found themselves up against the home team, Rugby, Redditch, Wombourne and Warley, and that is exactly what faced Halesowen right from the first event.

By the halfway mark it as clear that Halesowen were in the lower half of the points, with Leamington Spa and Rugby surging ahead and Halesowen forced to play catch-up.

Despite some battling performances from the Halesowen swimmers, the team were unable to improve further by the end of the gala and had to settle for finishing fifth overall.

First places were hard to come by throughout the competition and it was some consolation that the boys did manage a few.

The only individual event winners on the night were Jacob Bailey in the boys age 10 and under 50m backstroke and Jakob Baker in the boys 14 and under 100m breaststroke.

Relay event winners were Sam Bradley-Wood, George Davies, Daniel Hill and Tristan Bland in the open medley and they also triumphed in the open freestyle relay when joined by Tom Parker.

Final point scores for the meeting were Leamington Spa 244, Rugby 219, Redditch 167, Wombourne 157, Halesowen 135, Warley Wasps 118.

Weekend starts early for runners

THE weekend started early for some athletes from DK Running Club, for some as early as Wednesday night, as two teams travelled to Staffordshire for the annual Shugborough Relays where teams of four run two-mile legs around the estate.

In the Open Men's category Ben Foster ran a lightning fast first leg in 10.20, Rob Meredith ran 2nd in 10.59, James Wright went off 3rd in 11.27 and Matt Biggs bought the team home in 11.22 to finish 6th of 52 teams.

In the men's vets category Mark Judge finished in 13.13, Dave Norman in 12.45, Darran Bishop in 12.17 and Kieran Pitt in 13.48 to take 18th place out of 47 teams. It was on to Blakedown on Friday evening for the Blakedown Bolt, a testing 10k following off road tracks and paths.

Ben Foster claimed victory in 37.28, James Wright was 6th in 40.14, Dave Norman was 29th in 44.31, Dave Hickman was 73rd in 50.24, John Andrews was 84th in 51.19, John Glover was 190th in 1.01.45, Lisa Newell came 201st in 1.03.46, Sam Hemming was 245th in 1.08.29 and John Gould finished in 1.09.20 to take 252nd place.

On Saturday morning it was on to Wales for one of the toughest marathons in the calendar, the testing Trail Marathon Wales following tracks around the Coed-Y-Brenin forest.

Phil Sayers finished in 5.26.22 to take 267th place and Sarah Krivosic was 323rd in 6.17.14. Rob Meredith was the only representative at the Gnosall Carnival 10k but made the journey worthwhile claiming 2nd place in 39.11.

Meanwhilethe Blymhill 10k across fields and paths in Shropshire saw Mark Gallimore finish 8th in 47.12, Stephen Wakefield in 29th in 55.52, Dave Garbutt in 30th in 56.00, Carol Fisher in 37th in 58.18, Lyn Sprague in 38th in 58.20, Jacqui Elson-Whittaker in 58.23, Marie Latreche in 40th in 58.24, Steve Davies in 43rd ibn 59.21, Julie Allen in 46th in 59.34, Karen Doy in 47th in 59.52, Robert Jones in 50th in 1.00.25, Ann Law in 52nd in 1.00.34, Andy Fraser in 55th in 1.01.26.

Nigel determined to compete in US

NIGEL Gaskin refuses to give up on his dreams as he aims to compete for Great Britain in the Chicago Aquathon World Championships in September.

The Stourbridge-based triathlete, aged 37, is off to Cologne at the end of the month for the European Championships, hoping that he can qualify for the top event in the States.

It would not be his only recent success. Halesowen-born Gaskin also qualified from the recent Half Iron Man event in Staffordshire – his first event of that nature – and he qualified from his age group for the world finals in Zell am See-Kaprun, Austria.

The event consisted of a 1.2-mile swim, a 13.2-mile half-marathon and a 56-mile bike ride.

He said: "I'm very good in the swimming section because my background was in swimming. I was close to qualifying for the Commonwealth Games in 1998 but I missed out.

Swimming

"Then it was a case of putting swimming to the side, getting a job (he works as a policeman) and focusing on that.

"But I've got back into it and in the last three or four years I moved over to the triathlon. Which has been a blessing.

"Moving from pool swimming to open water swimming was a big challenge but I've adapted and my swimming advantage usually serves me well.

"I enjoy the running and even at my age feel like I'm in good shape. My competitive streak helps. You never lose that.

"But the money situation does get in the way, particularly with the bike. I have the most basic of models and it's not an excuse. It's just the way things have gone."

Gaskin is raising money to aid his ambitions and revealed how difficult the big competitions are.

"I'm trying to compete as often as I can at that level. It's not at the elite level of triathlon. It works at age ranges. I'm in the 35-39 group," he said.

"I'm good enough to compete well and achieve good positions.I've competed at GB level at the Police and Fire games that are held throughout the forces." Those competitions have been great. I've been fortunate to achieve a lot there.

"I always dreamed of the Olympics when I was a kid, unfortunately I never had the backing through funding. I really think I could've got there.

"If I can come away with a medal or a trophy from Germany having qualified for the worlds then that'll be brilliant and help my case in getting the support. It may have to be that I turn the World Championships in Chicago down if I don't get the backing, sadly.

"The Iron Man competitions are new. I didn't really know what to expect but I thoroughly enjoyed it.

"The swim helped. I was second-fastest of my age. I got a fantastic advantage and it took the eventual winners 24 miles to catch me on the bike! I finished in 16th with 2 hours 50 minutes, 10 minutes or so behind the top lads. To qualify for a world final in my first attempt at the event was great."

Triathlete Nigel Gaskin, of Stourbridge, at Crystal Leisure Centre hopes to compete in the US

League is looking to expand for new season

BOSSES at the Dudley & Cradley Heath Football League wants players to sign up for next season.

The league, which started in 1910, has produced professional players including an international, and can boast one of the country's oldest cup competitions.

At its peak the league had 118 teams playing across 10 division but membership has fallen with only two divisions – 16 teams in total – playing last season.

Officials are keen to drive numbers up again and are charging no registration fees ahead of the new campaign.

Chairman Carl Dakin said: "It is a good place to play football, we just need more teams.

"The competition has been going for many years and we have got the Dudley Guest Hospital Cup, which we also play for, that started in 1885. We want teams to be a part of that history, and to add to that."

The league was formed as the Cradley Heath & District Amateur Football League and can count the late Bolton Wanderers and England inside forward Raymond Westwood among its former players.

Westwood, from Kingswinford, played more than 300 games for the Trotters between 1928-1947 and was capped six time times by England between 1934-1936.

More recently, former Hednesford, Kidderminster and Macclesfield striker Matthew Barnes-Homer, from Dudley, also graduated from the league to play Conference football.

For further details, or to register a team, call Carl Dakin on 07919 107774 or secretary Bryan Sutton on 01384 295 651.

Villa keeping Stoke's N'Zoni on their radar

VILLA are keeping tabs on the availability of Stoke City midfielder Steven N'Zonzi.

The 26-year-old Frenchman enjoyed another eye-catching season as the Potters secured their highest-ever Premier League points tally.

Last week Mark Hughes' side turned down a 'derisory' £3million bid from Spanish club Sevilla - but it is believed that Tim Sherwood's Villa, along with Albion and West Ham may be more willing to meet Stoke's £6million valuation for the box-to-box tough-tackling midfielder.

The ex-Blackburn Rovers man is entering the final year of his contract at Britannia Stadium, with the Potters still optimistic they can tie down the Players' Player and Supporters' Player of the Season.

Albion want £30m to hand over Berahino

ALBION have reportedly slapped a £30m price tag on striker Saido Berahino.

The England Under-21 ace is again being linked with a move away from The Hawthorns this summer after netting 20 times for the Baggies last season.

Newcastle United, Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester City and Chelsea have all been mentioned as possible contenders for the 21-year-old's signature.

But the forward, who has yet to agree a new deal, still has two years to run on his current contract. It means that any side wishing to lure him away would have to pay big money, with £30m understood to be the figure required.

Such a sum would appear to rule out Newcastle out of the running.

Hales look to improve play form

HALESOWEN look to find some much needed form this Saturday when they go to Coventry and North Warwickshire.

Faisal Shahid's side were below their best once again at the weekend.

The start at Bridgnorth was delayed by two hours after overnight and morning rain and saw the match reduced to 38 overs per side.

Importantly Shahid won the toss and had no hesitation inviting Bridgnorth to bat first on a worn strip that looked likely to take spin.

Opening pair Karl Quiney and skipper James Ralph had out on 30 for the opening wicket before Shahid struck to have Quiney (15) caught behind by Wes Griffiths.

An early bowling change at the opposite end saw Dan Jeavons strike to remove new batsman Ryan Lockley for 5 to be quickly followed by Ralph (19) to leave the hosts reeling at 42-3.

Solid contributions, however, from the league leaders middle order of S. Gregory (53), Exall (20) and Weston (35) boosted the Bridgnorth score but the returning Rhodes claimed three late wickets to restrict the total to 179-9 from their allotted 38 overs when they had looked looked like posting a target around 200.

Halesowen got off to the worst possible start when Zain Shahid, surprisingly promoted to open the innings, fell in only the third over to opening bowler Dale Quiney.

As so often seen in recent weeks Halesowen wickets continued to fall to a series of rash shots and both Stebbings (18) and Gabriel (7) were dismissed playing expansively. That said at 74-4 Halesowen were still well in the huntBot, however, were to fall to spinner Whitney in quick succession and leave Halesowen with their backs against the wall at 84-6.

Speedway spat sees Hancock accuse Pedersen

LEGENDARY Cradley Heathens star and current world champion Greg Hancock has accused former Wolves ace Nicki Pedersen of doing 'dangerous things' after the pair were involved in a stunning on-track fracas.

The American is known as one of the sport's nicest characters but saw red after he and Pedersen were involved in a collision in the final heat of a meet in Sweden on Tuesday night.

Hancock, riding for Piraterna Pirates, appeared to have his front wheel taken away by his rival.

The enraged 45-year-old ran across the track to confront Pedersen, knocking the Dane off his bike with a flying clothesline. Team-mates and club officials then pulled the pair apart, with video footage of the incident going viral .

Hancock, a three-time world champion who rode for the Heathens between 1989 and 1996, later said: "I was p***** off at that moment.

"It's not the first time Pedersen's done dangerous things on the track."

Pedersen, said: "I am very surprised at his reaction."

Heathens team up for Golden Hammer

Speedway

CRADLEY Heathens will once again team up with Dudley Stroke Association in staging the showpiece individual event of the year.

A top class field is coming together for the F.A.S.T Golden Hammer at Perry Barr on Wednesday, August 12 – including the star riders from Heathens, Birmingham and Coventry.

And there's a place for new National League sensation Bradley Wilson-Dean, the Eastbourne man who has already alerted interest from Elite League clubs.

It will be the sixth successive year the club have joined forces with the Stroke Association, promoting the F.A.S.T message – Face, Arms, Speech, Time – relating to recognising the symptoms of stroke.

Cradley's riders will be involved, whilst flying Birmingham top three Adam Ellis, Tom Perry and Zach Wajtknecht will also be in action on home soil.

Meanwhile, former Heathens' favourites and current Coventry heat-leaders Dan Greenwood and Darryl Ritchings will compete alongside Wilson-Dean. With more riders still to be announced, another top class night of action is in prospect.

Said club co-promoter Gary Patchett, who has assembled the field: "The Golden Hammer is our flagship meeting, and it seems like it goes from strength to strength as an event every year. This is arguably our best since we relaunched the club.

"The past tradition is to try and include the current Cradley team, former Cradley riders and also past winners which is something we've tried to continue this year.

"We'll have six of our current riders, with Nathan Greaves unfortunately likely to miss out because of his injury. He's set a comeback target, but I think the Golden Hammer early in August might be a touch ambitious."

JACKETT EYES MILAN STRIKER

WOLVES are linked with a shock swoop for Inter Milan striker Samuele Longo.

The 23-year-old Italian is available on loan and Kenny Jackett is keen on bringing the forward to Molineux to bolster his attacking options.

He has just Benik Afobe and Nouha Dicko as first-team strikers next season after Kevin Doyle, Leon Clarke and Jake Cassidy all left the Molineux club.

Jackett is understood to have had Dwight Gayle and Joe Mason, of Crystal Palace and Cardiff City respectively, in his sights this summer but Wolves' interest in Mason has cooled.

And with Gayle thought to prefer a move to Premier League new -boys Bournemouth, Jackett has switched his attention to Longo.

The 6ft1ins striker had been earmarked as a future star of Italian football, but has struggled for goals.

He has yet to score in Serie A, failing to net in the league during a season-long loan at Cagliari in 2014/15.

Drought

He did score twice in the Italian Cup but his lack of goals extended a drought which began in 2013/14 when he also failed to score during loan spells at Verona and Rayo Vallecano, although he made just 11 appearances in total for both clubs, all from the bench.

Before that Longo scored three times from 18 appearances, with 11 of those beings starts, during yet another loan move, to Espanyol in La Liga.

The striker is now looking to reignite his career and is unlikely to have the chance to do it at Inter.

He has featured at youth level for Italy, including for the under-21s.

Longo has been on Inter supporters' radars for many years after coming through the youth setup.

He famously netted a hat-trick in an Italian youth cup semi final clash versus rivals AC Milan, with Inter winning 4-3 in extra time.

Wolves fans are looking for Jackett to invest this summer, with a striker and a left-wing replacement for Bakary Sako a priority.

Couple with a great track record

Eric and Pam Horwill's work has been recognised with an Unsung Heroes award from British Athletics

DURING more than six decades in athletics, there isn't much Eric and Pam Horwill haven't turned their hands to.

Whether it be competing internationally, coaching at Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers, or sitting on the board of Staffordshire Athletics to name just one association – if you can think of a role, the husband and wife from Wordsley have probably done it.

"It's a long story really," admits Pam with a chuckle. "We've been involved in quite a bit."

Their sterling work was recently recognised by British Athletics, who handed them an Unsung Hero Award. The couple run the club's youth section but that tells only a fraction of a story which began 64 years ago, when Pam, a keen cross country runner, joined the club, which was then Stourbridge and Wordsley.

"I remember watching Fanny Blankers-Koen, who was nicknamed the Flying Dutch Housewife, compete at the London Olympics in 1948," she said.

"I thought, I wouldn't mind having a go at that."

Pam would go on to compete at the national championships while Eric, who she met when they both attended Wordsley New Street Youth Club, achieved international recognition as a race walker and until recently was still competing at European Masters events.

Moxey voted on to Football League board

WOLVES chief executive Jez Moxey has been elected on to the Football League board.

After a vote of Championship clubs, Moxey – who has been at Wolves for 15 years – joined Brighton chief executive Paul Barber to represent the division on the board.

There are 10 members on the board, led by chairman Greg Clarke.

Moxey said: "It is a privilege and honour to have been voted onto the Football League board by colleagues from Championship clubs.

"I look forward to working with the chairman, CEO and the other directors of The Football League.

"I will do what I can to provide positive support, help and guidance on the various issues and challenges that the League faces.

"Part of the role is to protect and promote the interests of the Championship as well as the league as a whole and I will always keep the clubs at the forefront of my thinking."

Middlesbrough's Keith Lamb is the other Championship representative on the board.

They join Football League chief executive Shaun Harvey, independents Richard Bowker and Debbie Jevans, Millwall's Andy Ambler Scunthorpe's James Rodwell and Oxford's Ian Lenagan.

Ambler was re-elected after Millwall's relegation from the Championship.

Clarke said: "It gives me great pleasure to welcome Jez and Paul onto the board and to welcome Andy back.

"Each of them has enormous experience in professional football, as well as being widely respected by our clubs.

"I very much look forward to working with all three of them in the period ahead."

Yeltz get hands on ex-Villa youth player

HALESOWEN Town have continued with their eye-catching summer spree with the signing of former Villa youth player Darius Darkin.

Darkin, who was a striker in his Villa Park days before taking a more reserved role, made a handful of appearances for Studley last season and has also appeared for , Aylesbury United, Hinkley and Bedworth United since leaving Villa.

The attacker, who recently turned 21, joins up to John Hill's side ahead of the upcoming 2015/2016 season.

Yeltz boss Hill said: "Myself and Matty Clark are delighted to get Darius on board."

★★★

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